1
Higasa Akai
THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

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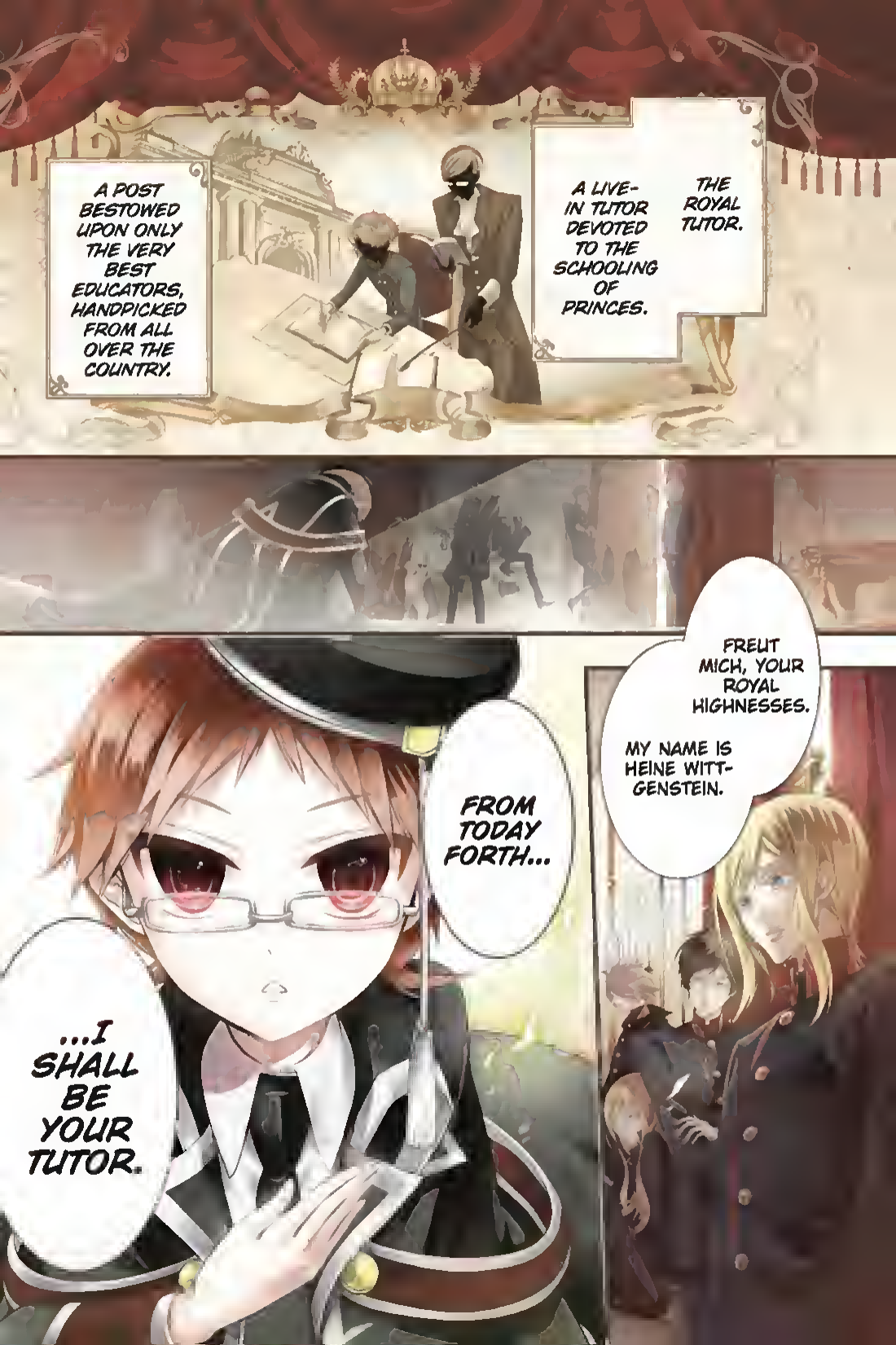
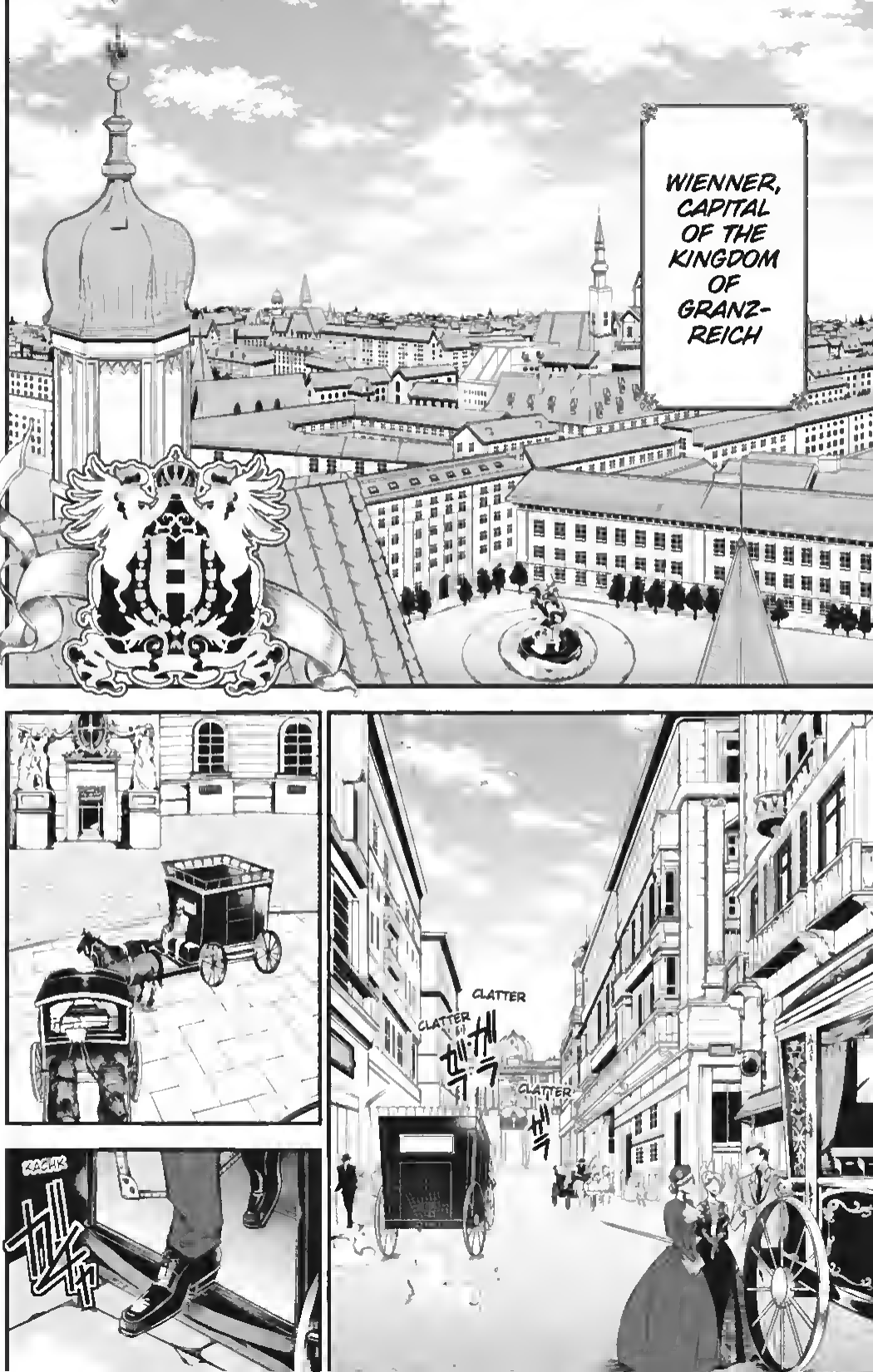

A POST BESTOWED UPON ONLY THE VERY BEST EDUCATORS, HANDPICKED FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
A LIVE-IN TUTOR DEVOTED TO THE SCHOOLING OF PRINCES.
THE ROYAL TUTOR.
FREUT MICH, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES.
MY NAME IS HEINE WITT-GENSTEIN.
FROM TODAY FORTH...
...I SHALL BE YOUR TUTOR.

Chapter 1

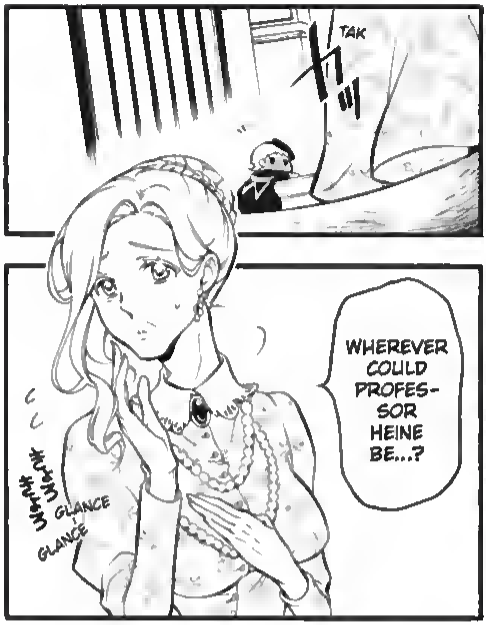
The Royal Tutor Arrives!


WIENNER, CAPITAL OF THE KINGDOM OF GRANZ-REICH
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
KACHK

PLAY
WEISBURG PALACE.
...AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE GRANZREICH ROYAL FAMILY—
AT LONG LAST, I'VE ARRIVED...

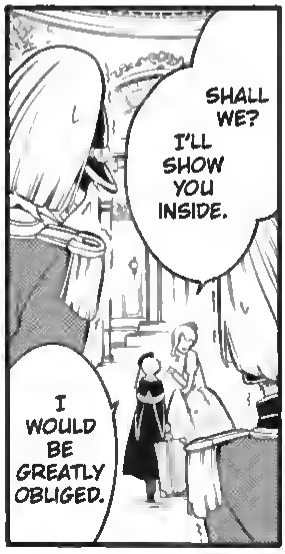
...THIS IS MY FIRST STEP!
FWSH
STARTING TODAY, THIS IS WHERE I SHALL LIVE AND WORK AS ROYAL TUTOR...
ON THE PATH TO ACHIEVING MY PERSONAL GOALS...
.....
SCUTTLE SCUTTLE SCUTTLE
ちま ちま ちま ちま
HIS FIRST STEP, IMPEDED.
!?
GRAB
NOT SO FAST, LAD!

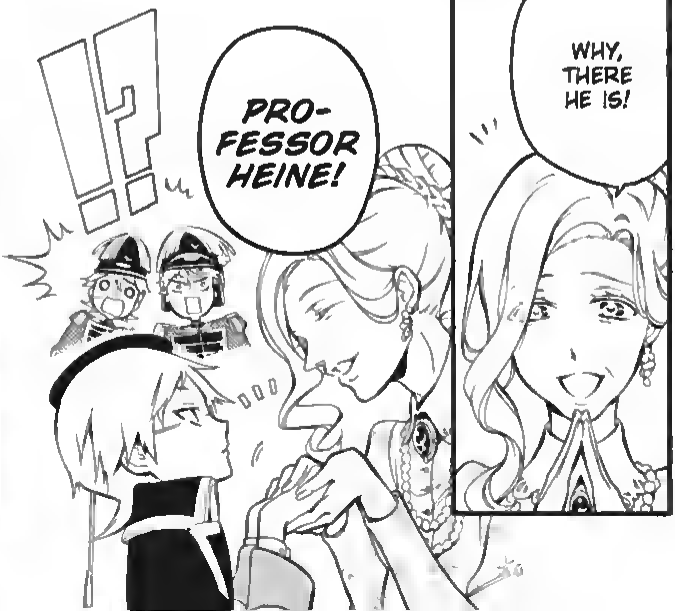
I HAVE A ROYAL SUMMONS FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING, IF YOU WISH TO SEE IT.
I AM NOT "WALTZ-ING IN."
HUH?
YOU! YOU, LAD!!
YOU CAN'T GO WALTZING INTO THE PALACE AS YOU LIKE!
.....?
"LAD"? OF WHOM DO YOU SPEAK?
GLANCE
GLANCE
HAHA
HAHAHAHA
HAHA
OHH, IS THAT RIGHT? WAIT FOR YOUR PAPA TO ARRIVE, AND HE'LL TAKE YOU INSIDE WITH HIM!
PAPA'S TRAVELING COMPANION, ARE YOU?
THERE'S A GOOD LAD.
HA HA
OH! YOU'RE PROFESSOR HEINE'S SON!
I AM THE NEW ROYAL TUTOR, HEINE—
I SHOULD HAVE IN-TRODUCED MYSELF.
HRUMPH...


TAK
WHEREVER COULD PROFESSOR HEINE BE...?
GLANCE GLANCE

HMM? I DON'T SEE HIS CARRIAGE...
HUH?
TO THINK I WOULD BE STOPPED AT THE GATES...
HOW WILL I CLEAR UP THIS MISUNDERSTANDING?
SLUMP

KNEEL
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE QUEEN MOTHER!


SHALL WE?
I'LL SHOW YOU INSIDE.
I WOULD BE GREATLY OBLIGED.


!?
PROFESSOR HEINE!
WHY, THERE HE IS!

...YOU DON'T THINK HE'S...?
P-"PROFESSOR HEINE," SHE SAID...
I AM HEINE WITTGENSTEIN, AND FROM TODAY FORTH, I AM TO BE EMPLOYED HERE AS THE ROYAL TUTOR.
PARDON THE LATE INTRODUCTION.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, DESPITE MY APPEARANCE...
...I AM A FULL-GROWN ADULT.

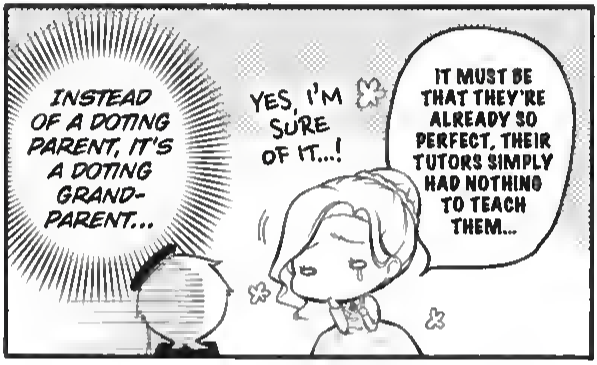
A THOU-SAND APOLO-GIES!!
YOU POOR DEAR...IF I'D WARNED THEM, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SUFFERED SUCH A RUDE RECEPTION...
NOT AT ALL.
YOU NEEDN'T GIVE IT ANOTHER SECOND'S THOUGHT.
I AM QUITE ACCUS-TOMED TO BEING MISTAKEN FOR A CHILD...
HMPH.
OH, HE'S STILL THINKING ABOUT IT. YES, STILL THINKING ABOUT IT.

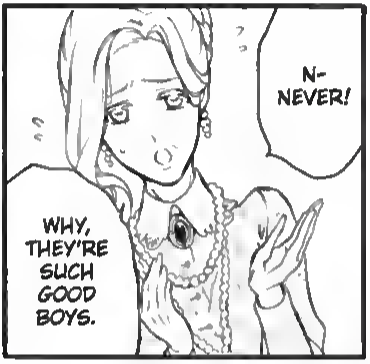
...I MUST ADMIT THAT RECEIVING A LETTER IN HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S OWN HAND...
...HAS LEFT ME QUITE STUNNED.
EH?
I STILL CANNOT BELIEVE THAT A MERE COMMONER SUCH AS MYSELF HAS BEEN CALLED TO THE ROYAL PALACE...
NONSENSE.
THE KING HAS HAD NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR YOUR EXCELLENCE AS AN EDUCATOR.
IS THIS NOT A SPECIAL EXCEPTION IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR ABILITY?
.....
A SPECIAL EXCEPTION...
"HERR HEINE WITTGENSTEIN:
"AS KING OF GRANZREICH...
"...I INVITE YOU TO THE PALACE AS THE ROYAL TUTOR."

"I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO BE BLESSED WITH ONE PRINCESS AND FIVE PRINCES.
"MY ELDEST SON IS A FINE CANDIDATE FOR THE CROWN.
"YET I CANNOT DISCOUNT THE ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE THAT AN ILL FATE AWAITS HIM.
"THUS, I WOULD APPOINT YOU AS TUTOR TO HIS FOUR YOUNGER BROTHERS...
"...TO GROOM THEM INTO WORTHY POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS TO THE THRONE.
"AS I SEE IT, THEY ARE STILL UNFIT TO RULE.
"TO PREVENT THE DIFFERENCE IN ABILITIES AMONG INDIVIDUAL TUTORS FROM CAUSING UNFAIRNESS IN THEIR GROWTH...
"...I WOULD HAVE YOU OVERSEE THEIR STUDIES WITH AN EQUAL HAND AS THEIR SOLE TUTOR."

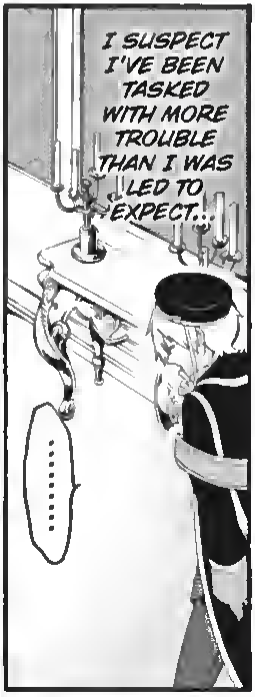
"IF ANY OF THEM GROW TO RIVAL THEIR ELDEST BROTHER IN WORTHINESS FOR THE CROWN...
"...THEN AT THAT TIME"—
.....
LOOOOM
PROFES-SOR!
MY LITTLE PRINCES...
I BEG OF YOU— TREAT THEM DEARLY!
CLASP
!?
??
...YOU SEE...
THE PRINCES' TUTORS ARE ALWAYS SO QUICK TO LEAVE.
I CAN'T FATHOM WHY...IT'S THE MOST CURIOUS THING...
RESIG-NATION

SHOCK
FORGIVE ME, BUT COULD THE PROBLEM LIE WITH THE PRINCES THEM-SELVES...?

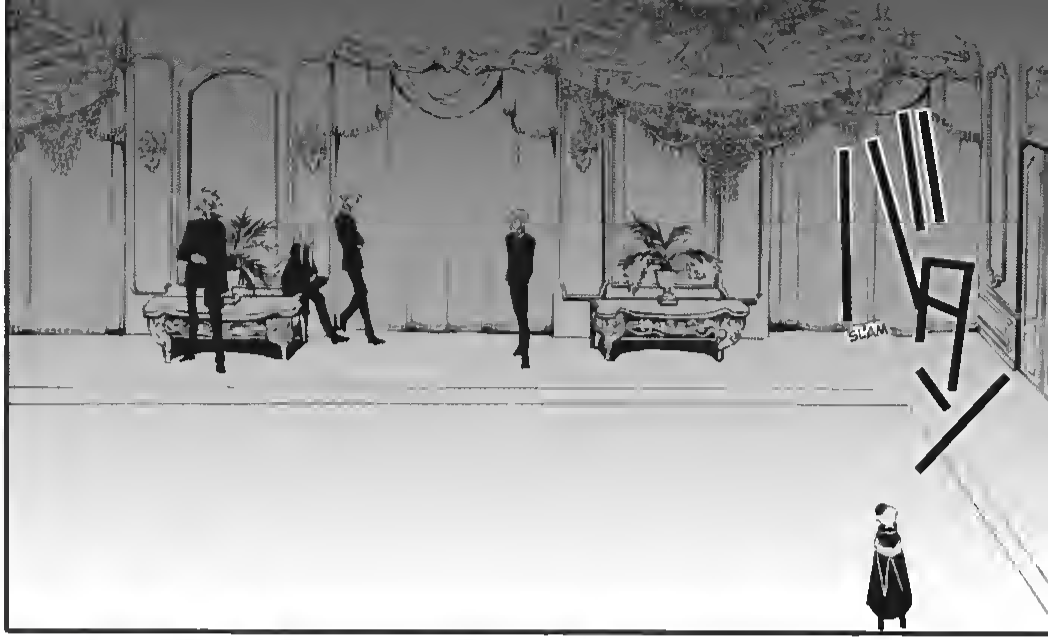

INSTEAD OF A DOTING PARENT, IT'S A DOTING GRAND-PARENT...
YES, I'M SURE OF IT...!
IT MUST BE THAT THEY'RE ALREADY SO PERFECT, THEIR TUTORS SIMPLY HAD NOTHING TO TEACH THEM...


N-NEVER!
WHY, THEY'RE SUCH GOOD BOYS.

I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE. FULFILLING THIS DUTY SATISFACTORILY IS MY ONLY CONCERN.
GLINT


I SUSPECT I'VE BEEN TASKED WITH MORE TROUBLE THAN I WAS LED TO EXPECT...
.....

THE PRINCES ARE WAITING BEYOND THESE DOORS.
I'LL LEAVE THEM TO YOU, PROFESSOR.
NO MATTER HOW PROBLEMATIC THE PRINCES MAY PROVE TO BE, I'LL GROOM THEM INTO PROPER ROYALS.
IT IS MY DUTY AS A PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR!
SHFF
KACHAK
CREEEEAK


SLAM

KNEEL

TAK
TAK

.....

FREUT MICH, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES.
MY NAME IS HEINE WITTGEN-STEIN.

FROM TODAY FORTH, I SHALL BE YOUR TUTOR.
SWISH
—NHI

ICH FREUE MICH, SIE KENNEN ZU LERNEN...
<IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU...>

...HERR
WITTGENSTEIN.

RUSTLE
……!

THIS... IS WHAT DEFINES A PRINCE...
BRIMMING WITH NOBILITY... AND VIRTUE...
HOW BREATH-TAKING...
AS THOUGH HE STEPPED OUT OF A PAINTING... A PERFECT PRINCE...
LEIN
WE WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS, HERR WITTGENSTEIN...

...
HARD-
LY.
DID YOU
HONESTLY
EXPECT
A WARM
WELCOME
FROM
ME?

A SUDDEN, INEXPLICABLE...
...VENOMOUS LOOK.
!!?
BEFORE MAKING THE ERROR OF THINKING YOURSELF IMPORTANT, LET ME WARN YOU.

NO MATTER WHAT MY FATHER'S ORDERS, YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A TEACHER.
A MERE COM-MONER.
I, FOURTH PRINCE OF THE KINGDOM OF GRANZ-REICH...
...LEONHARD VON GRANZ-REICH...
...WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO ORDER ME AROUND.
SIT
UNDER-STOOD?

AS PROUD AS MOUNT EVEREST IS TALL... PROUD PRINCE EVEREST...
TMP TMP
HE MAY LOOK BREATH-TAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL...
...BUT ONCE HE OPENS HIS MOUTH, HE'S BREATH-TAKINGLY HAUGHTY.
.....
!?
YANK
TEEEEACH! GOTCHA!
OOH, OOH, TEACH! ARE YOU REALLY A GROWN-UP?
WOOOW! YOU'RE SO LIGHT AND TIIINY!
HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS? EXACTLY HOW TALL ARE YOU!?
TELL MEEE!
...EXCUSE ME...
DANGLE
DANGLE
DANGLE

HUMPH!
EXCUSE ME...
HE CALLED ME "TINY" TWICE!
DAMMIT, LICHT!
I WASN'T DONE TALKING!
YOU CAN'T HOG HIM, LEONIE!
I WANNA TALK TO THE TINY TEACHER TOO!
DROP
WHOOPSIES! I DIDN'T INTRODUCE MYSELF, HUH?
I'M LICHT VON GRANZ—
AHHH, MY FULL NAME'S SO LOOONG. "LICHT" IS GOOD ENOUGH!
JUST CALL ME "LICHIE," 'KAY?♪
"LICHIE"... FROM "LICHT"...?
YAY!

POMP
STARE
?
HOW FRIENDLY THIS PRINCE SEEMS. YOU WOULDN'T THINK HIM A ROYAL.
SHIMMER
.....
GO AHEAD. HAVE A LONG LOOK. TAKE IT ALL IN. HEH... I'M SO SEXY, IT'S SINFUL.
TEACH... HAVE MY GOOD LOOKS HYPNO-TIZED YOU?
WHAP
YOWCH!
SINFULLY SHAMELESS IS WHAT YOU ARE!

THE RUCKUS MY YOUNGER BROTHERS ARE MAKING IS TRULY APPALLING.
OH, NOT AT ALL.
WH-WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, BRUNIE!?
AS THE THIRD-ELDEST BROTHER, BRUNO, I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR.
...BY THE WAY, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF PERUSING WHAT MATERIALS I COULD GATHER REGARDING YOUR BACKGROUND...
...BUT NOTHING WHATSOEVER WAS WRITTEN CONCERNING YOUR ACADEMIC RECORD.
WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU ATTEND UNIVERSITY?

NO-WHERE.
.....
...IS THAT SO.
I HAVE NOT GONE TO UNIVERSITY.
PAR-DON ME?
...BUT HIS GAZE GREW STRANGELY COLD JUST NOW...
...? HE'S PROPERLY POLITE...
BROTHER, YOU SHOULD AT LEAST GREET THE NEW TUTOR.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE KAI, THE SECOND-ELDEST PRINCE.

...I COULDN'T HEAR HIM.
THEN HE GLOWERED AT ME...
TURN
?
...TEA...
...EET Y...
ALTHOUGH IT WASN'T WITHOUT A FEW ODD MOMENTS...
...I'VE GREETED EACH OF THEM, IN ANY CASE.
NOW, THEN, I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE MATTER AT HAND.
SO THAT I MAY DETER-MINE THE DIRECTION YOUR INDIVIDUAL LESSONS SHALL TAKE...
...I SHOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW EACH OF YOU PRIVATELY.
SHFF
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

I'LL NEVER ACKNOWL-EDGE YOU AS OUR TUTOR !!
NONE OF US WANTS A TUTOR...!
I DETEST TEACHERS MORE THAN ANY-THING ELSE IN THE WORLD!

I'M AFRAID I MUST AGREE.
IN MY SCHOOL, I AM ALWAYS THE TOP STUDENT.
I DO NOT REQUIRE A SO-CALLED "TUTOR" WHO HAS NEVER EVEN STUDIED AT UNIVERSITY.
YOU GUYS THINK SO?
WELL, IF MY BIG BROTHERS ARE AGAINST IT, THEN I AM TOOOO.
NOT THAT IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO ME EITHER WAY!
.....
.....

IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW...
I FINALLY SEE WHY SO MANY TUTORS FLED FROM THEIR POSTS HERE.
THE PRINCES SHUNNED AND REJECTED THEM ON A UNITED FRONT, MERELY FOR BEING TEACHERS.
THE PRINCES WOULDN'T ACCEPT THEIR TUTELAGE IN THE SLIGHTEST...
...KH...
CLENCH
ﾌﾞﾙﾙ!!!
YOUR HIGH-NESSES HAVE MADE YOUR FEELINGS MOST CLEAR...

NOW, THEN.
WHOM SHALL I INTERVIEW FIRST?
WE DIDN'T TAKE IT THAT FAR...
IT WAS SOMETHING TO THE TUNE OF, "YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE OUR TUTOR! AN INSECT LIKE YOU CAN EAT SHITE AND DIE!!" YES?
OF COURSE I WAS.
...HUH? WHA...? W-WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
GRRRR!

CRACK
YOUR HIGHNESSES' MOODS HAVE NO BEARING ON THIS.
I AM HERE ONLY TO FULFILL MY ROLE AS ROYAL TUTOR.
THE TASK OF A TEACHER IS TO EDUCATE HIS STUDENTS.

NOT...
...TO CURRY THEIR FAVOR.
—GH!

Chapter 2
Interview with a Prince I

YOU REFUSE TO LEAVE OUR PALACE, DO YOU?
... INSOLENT CUR.
.....
FWIP
...TO SEE YOU OUSTED FROM THE POST OF ROYAL TUTOR!
WE BROTHERS WILL BAND TOGETHER ...
TOO BAD. IF THE FOUR OF US GO ON STRIKE...
...FATHER WILL HAVE TO RECON-SIDER...

はﾊっ
WHIRL
OH DRAT! IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE!?
HUH?
TIK
TIK
TIK
...AH.
GONG
WHAT !!?
ZOOM
SORRY, LEONIE! I HAVE GUESTS WAITING IN MY ROOM!
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS!
DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO!
YOU AND I WILL CHASE AWAY THIS IMPUDENT TEACHER TOGETHER—
I-IT'S NO MATTER. I WASN'T EXPECTING ANYTHING FROM HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE...
HOW UNSEEMLY FOR A ROYAL...
MORE WOMEN, I'M SURE.
HAAH...
LICHT... THAT STUPID LITTLE...

HOWEVER, I AM PENNING A PAPER THAT REQUIRES MY IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.
COME TO MY QUARTERS AFTER YOU'VE INTERVIEWED LEONHARD.
...I AM INTRIGUED. YOU'RE THE FIRST TEACHER TO CHALLENGE US HEAD-ON.
I'LL CONSENT TO THIS INTERVIEW OF YOURS.
HUH!?
STAGGER
WH-WHY...? DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO...
AS YOU WISH, YOUR HIGHNESS.
STRIDE STMP STMP STMP STMP
TOO FAST!
...U-UM... ELDER BROTH-ER...?
PEEK

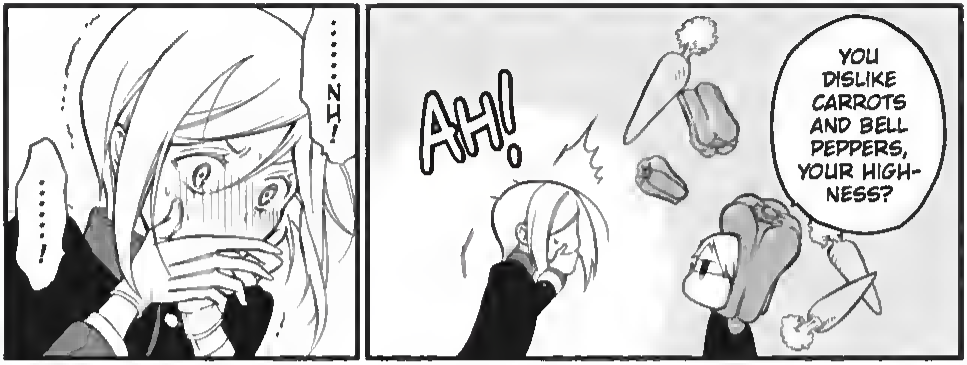
ABANDONED BY ALL OF YOUR BROTHERS...
WHAT A PITY, PRINCE LEONHARD.
URGH!
SH-SHUT UP... DON'T PITY ME...
……
ぼっーん
ALONE
I! DON'T! WANT! TO!
THERE, THERE. SIT DOWN AND SPEAK WITH ME. YOU SEE? YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
SHUFFLE
YES, YES, VERY WELL.
LET US TAKE THIS TO YOUR HIGHNESS'S QUARTERS.
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
YOU LISTEN GOOD!! I DO NOT NEED A TUTOR! NOT NOW, NOT EVER! GOT THAT!?

THE FOURTH PRINCE, LEONHARD. FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE.
A VISION OF A PRINCE, HIS IS CONSIDERED THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FACE ON THE WESTERN CONTINENT. THEY CALL HIM THE "WHITE LILY OF GRANZREICH."
YET HE NEVER BOASTS ABOUT THE APPEARANCE WITH WHICH HE HAS BEEN BLESSED. HE IS A MAN OF CHARACTER, ALWAYS HUMBLE, ALWAYS KINDHEARTED.
GLANCE
ふふん
THAT DESCRIBES PRINCE LEONHARD, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, AND RUMORS IN THE CITY. HOWEVER...

THE REAL PRINCE LEONHARD IS AS ARROGANT AS MOUNT EVEREST IS TALL.
GLARE
WHAT? YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, COMMONER?
I UNDER-STAND.
I'M ONLY GOING ALONG WITH THIS INTERVIEW NONSENSE ON A WHIM.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M WELCOMING YOU AS A TUTOR.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I DECIDED TO LET YOU INTO MY ROOM. THAT'S IT.

I HAVE ONE OTHER IMPORTANT GOAL—
TO GIVE THEM A COMPETENCY TEST SO THAT I MAY GAUGE THEIR ACADEMIC LEVELS.
SHP
THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THESE ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS IS TO FAMILIARIZE MYSELF WITH EACH OF THE PRINCES' DISPOSITIONS.
STARE
I'LL TAKE IT OUT AFTER CHATTING WITH HIM A BIT.
IF I ASK HIM TO TAKE THIS TEST, I DOUBT HE'LL AGREE EASILY.
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU DID NOT CARE FOR ME ON FIRST SIGHT, DID YOU?
CLEARLY.
HMPH!
MRRRM...
.....

I TOLD YOU— I DESPISE TEACHERS.
YES, BUT THAT'S HARDLY REASON TO—
SHUT UP!
BAM
TO ME, HOLDING THE TITLE OF "TEACHER" ITSELF DESERVES UNRESERVED DISDAIN...!
STUPID TEACH-ERS...
STUPID TEACH-ERS...!
I HATE STUPID TEACHERS ALMOST AS MUCH AS I HATE CARROTS AND BELL PEPPERS!!
JAB
WHY AM I BEING COMPARED TO VEGE-TABLES?


……NH!
……!
AH!
YOU DISLIKE CARROTS AND BELL PEPPERS, YOUR HIGHNESS?

YOUR HIGHNESS IS UNEXPECTEDLY CHILDISH...
WH-WHAT OF IT, HMM?
FWIP
TH-THE BITTER TASTE, THE SMELL...
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO STOMACH THEM FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

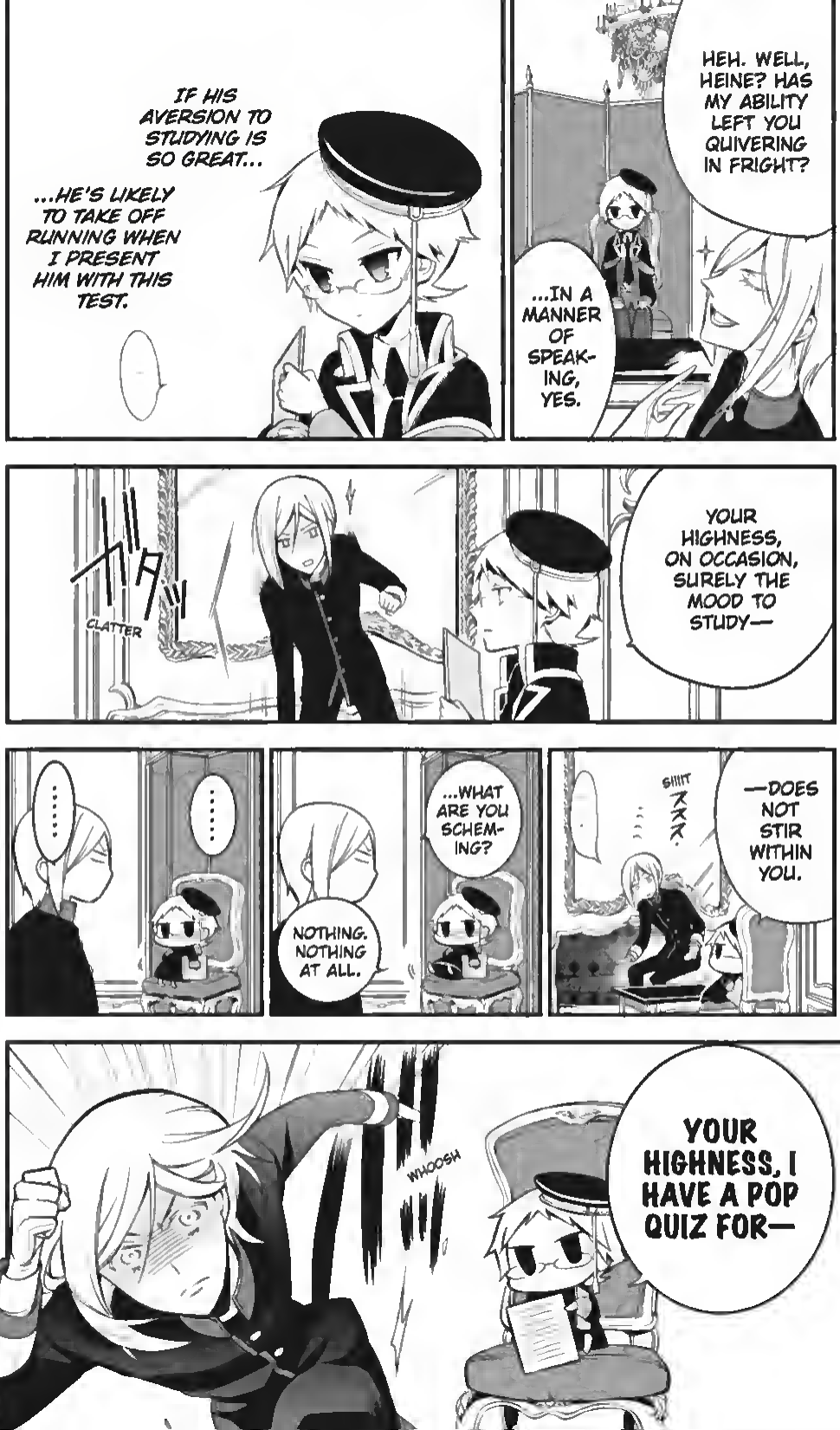
HNNGH... WANT TO... EAT IT... MUST... RESIST...
HOW GROWN-UP IS THAT!?
WHY, AS I KNOW THAT I MUSTN'T SPOIL MY APPETITE FOR DINNER, I RESIST EATING TORTE IN THE EVENINGS, AND IT'S MY FAVORITE!
HO HO HO!
YOUR HIGHNESS IS INDEED A MODEL (FOR CHILDREN) TO FOLLOW...

HOW DARE YOU!? I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, I'M FIFTEEN YEARS OLD!
I AM A MODEL GROWN-UP!

MAY I INQUIRE AS TO WHY YOUR DISLIKE FOR TEACHERS IS SO POWERFUL?
HMPH! YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
I CANNOT RECTIFY THE ISSUE WITHOUT KNOWING THE REASON YOU FEEL THIS WAY.
I BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE A BOND OF TRUST BETWEEN TEACHER AND STUDENT—
TEACHERS CAN'T BE TRUSTED!
.....
NONE OF MY TEACHERS HAS EVER CARED ABOUT ME, THEIR STUDENT ...
THEY WERE ALL TOO BUSY TRYING TO GAIN MY FATHER'S FAVOR...
I SEE. HE'S STRUGGLING WITH COMPLICATED FEELINGS ARISING FROM HIS STATION AS PRINCE.
BUT MORE THAN ANY-THING...

...I DETEST ...
...STUDY-ING.
THEREFORE, TEACHERS... THOSE WHO FORCE ME TO STUDY...
...ARE THE ENEMY!
HIS FEELINGS ARE NOT SO COMPLICATED, AFTER ALL.
WHAT MANNER OF LESSONS DID YOUR HIGHNESS HAVE WITH THE PREVIOUS ROYAL TUTORS, THEN?
IF YOU DISLIKE STUDYING TO THIS EXTENT, THEY MUST HAVE ARRANGED MATERIAL THAT WAS EASY TO LEARN...

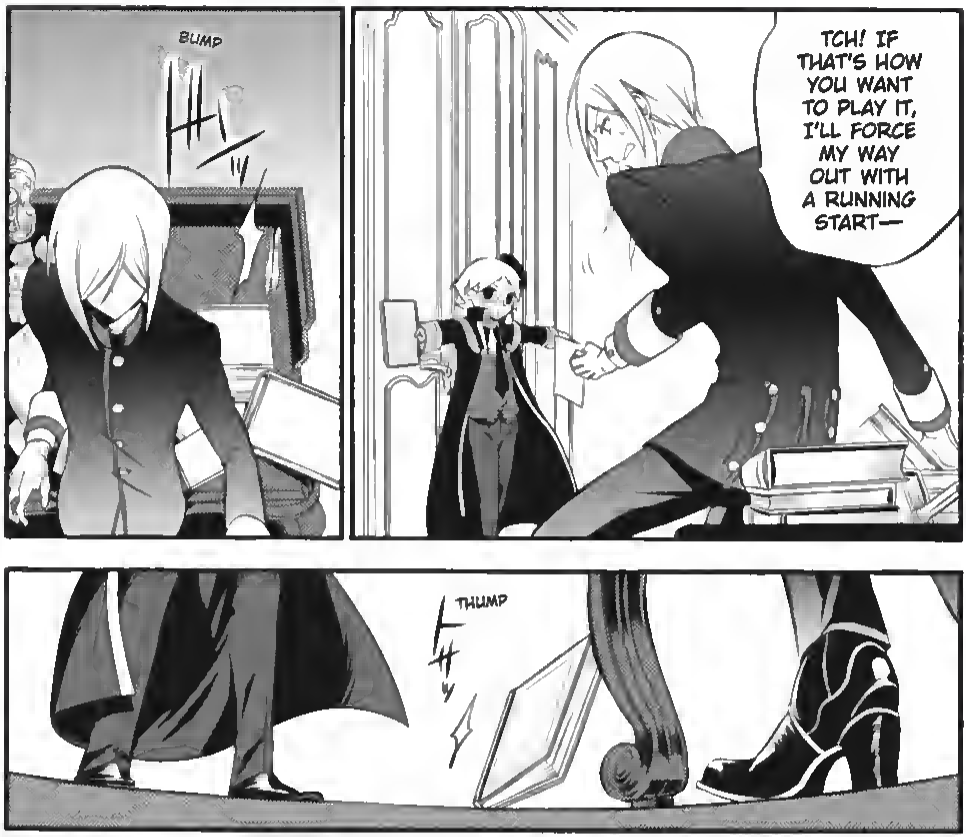
DOOM
I RAN FROM THEM ALL.
HOW DIRECT.
GALLOP
WHEEZE!
HUFF!
HUFF!
TUTOR→
ZOOOOM
HUFF!
HAFF!
HUFF!
TUTOR →
STUFFED
THESE ARE ALL THE TROPHIES I'VE WON THANKS TO THE TECHNIQUE AND STRENGTH I WAS ABLE TO HONE IN MY FLIGHTS.
...THE YOUNG PRINCELING IS NOT AS INTELLIGENT AS HE APPEARS.
MY, MY.
HE ONLY HAS A HEAD FOR SPORTS.


IF HIS AVERSION TO STUDYING IS SO GREAT...
...HE'S LIKELY TO TAKE OFF RUNNING WHEN I PRESENT HIM WITH THIS TEST.
HEH. WELL, HEINE? HAS MY ABILITY LEFT YOU QUIVERING IN FRIGHT?
...IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, YES.
CLATTER
YOUR HIGHNESS, ON OCCASION, SURELY THE MOOD TO STUDY—
.....
.....
NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.
...WHAT ARE YOU SCHEMING?
SIIIIT
—DOES NOT STIR WITHIN YOU.
WHOOSH
YOUR HIGHNESS, I HAVE A POP QUIZ FOR—

OHO...YOU ACTUALLY MANAGED TO KEEP UP WITH ME... NOT BAD...!
ENOUGH OF THAT. HURRY UP AND TAKE YOUR TEST.
じり...
TENSE
じり...
TENSE
SWOOP
!!?

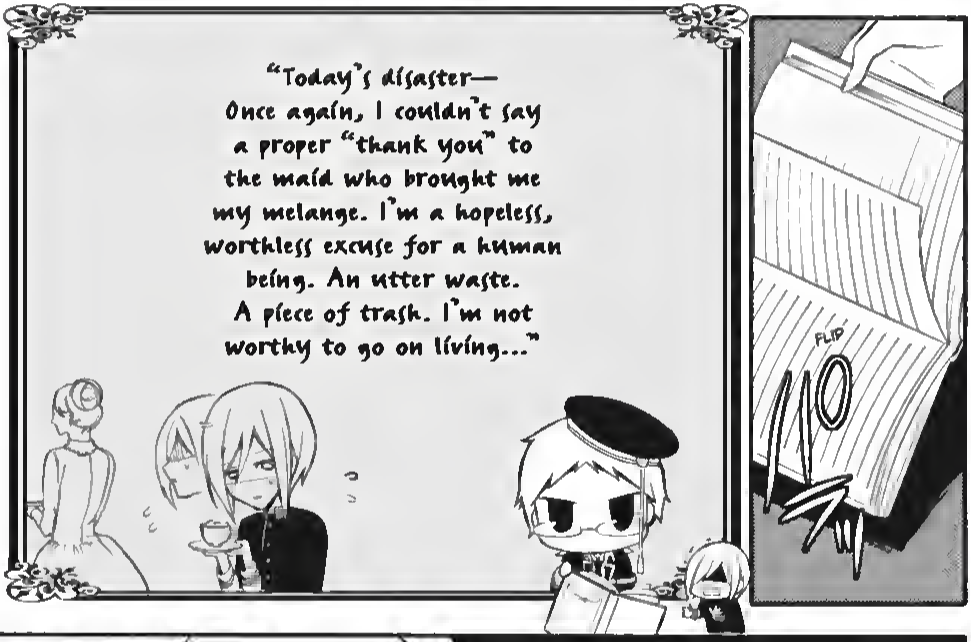
IF YOU WOULD RELAX...
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS. IT'S ONLY THE MOST BASIC OF QUESTIONS IN LANGUAGE ARTS, ARITHMETIC, AND OTHER FUNDAMENTAL SUBJECTS.

YOU NEEDN'T PUT UP SUCH A DRAMATIC STRUGGLE...
DISGUSTING..
NOOO! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE HIDING A TEST! I KNEW I COULD NEVER TRUST A TEACHERRR! MOVE IT— KOFF! HAGKH! (CHOKED)
SOB
SOB
SOB


BUMP
TCH! IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO PLAY IT, I'LL FORCE MY WAY OUT WITH A RUNNING START—
THUMP

!!!
Tegebuch
Diary

ACK! Y-YOU IDIOT!
A BOOK FELL.
?

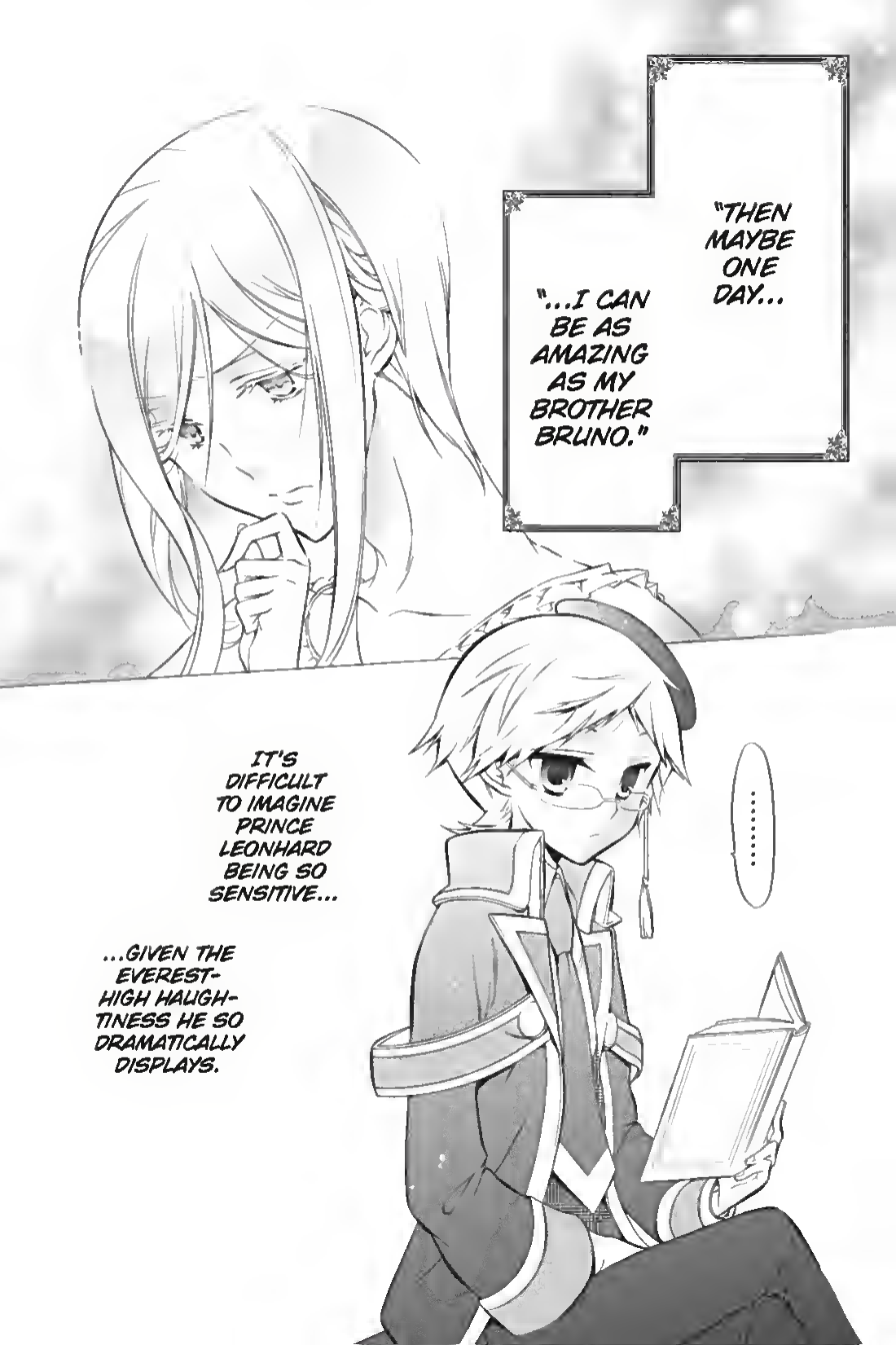

"Today's disaster—
Once again, I couldn't say a proper "thank you" to the maid who brought me my melange. I'm a hopeless, worthless excuse for a human being. An utter waste. A piece of trash. I'm not worthy to go on living..."
FLIP
10

WHAT A FRIGHTFULLY NEGATIVE DIARY...

YOU KEEP THIS KIND OF JOURNAL, DO YOU, PRINCE LEONHARD?
STARE
U-UM...! N-NO... THAT'S...
THIS IS... A DIARY OF REGRETS.
HE BEGINS EACH ENTRY DECLARING THE DAY A DISASTER...
"Today's disaster— I ruined a book I borrowed from dearest brother Bruno.
I want to die."
LICHT MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN IT HERE IN MY ROOM!
BAM
THAT'S MY LITTLE BROTHER'S DIARY! YES!
Leonhard

ACK! WHAT ARE YOU—? YOU CAN'T READ THAT OUT LOUD HERE...!
"AUGUST 10. TODAY'S DISASTER— I PICKED THE PEPPERS OUT OF THE GOULASH WE HAD FOR DINNER..."
OH, THAT WON'T DO. NAUGHTY STUDENTS WHO DITCH THEIR TESTS MUST BE PUNISHED.
G-GIVE IT!
GIVE IT BACK! IT'S PRIVATE...!
DRAG
DRAG
COME ON...S-STO... NH...!
AH!
"MARCH 29. TODAY'S DISASTER—"
GLANCE
"ONCE AGAIN, I BOLTED FROM MY LESSONS. WHY AM I SUCH A—"
O-OKAY! FINE! I'LL TAKE YOUR STUPID TEST!
I SWEAR I'LL DO IT! JUST STOP, YOU SADIST!!
WAAH!
MURMUR
MURMUR
WHAT?
WHAT'S ALL THIS NOW?

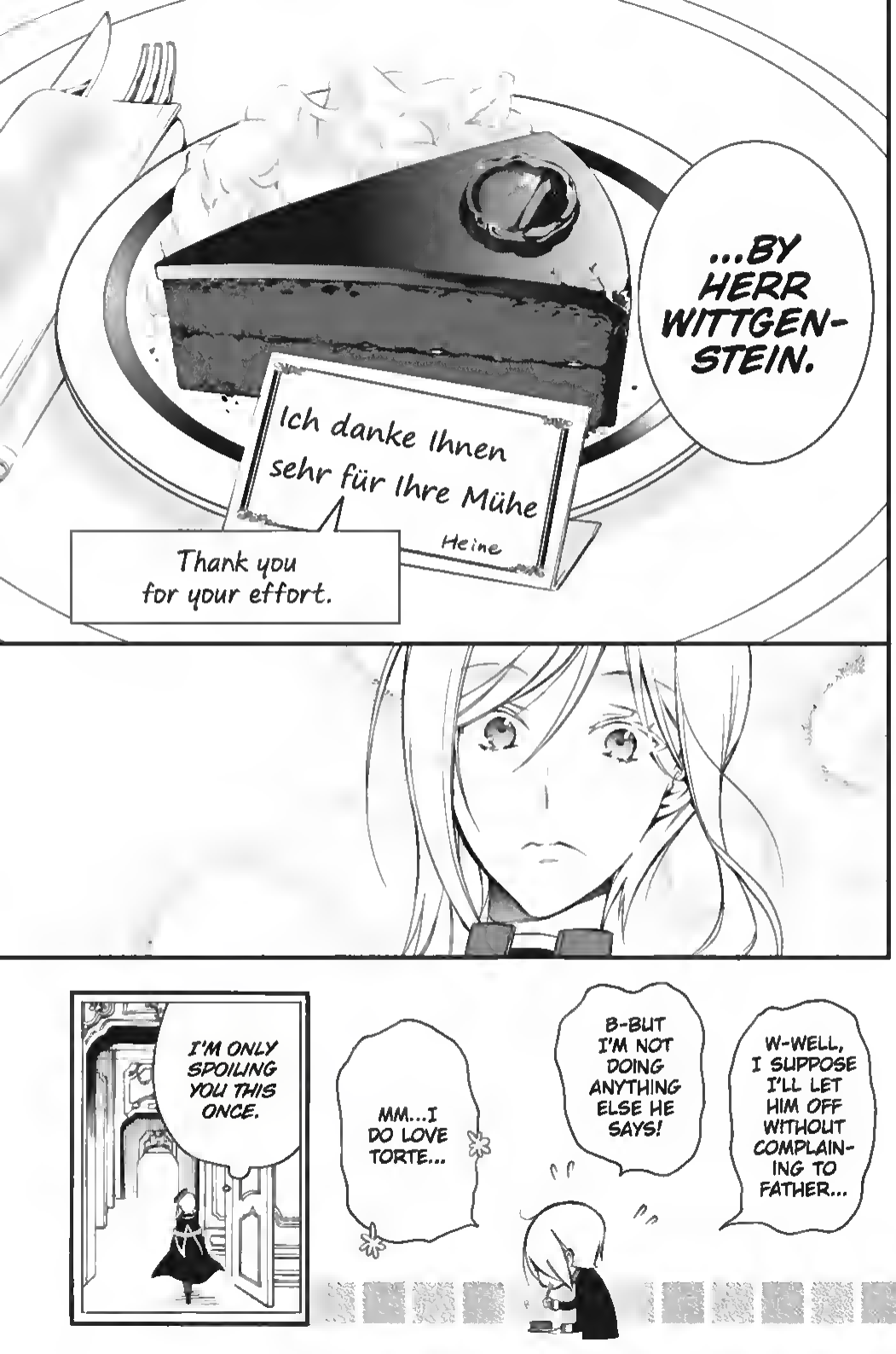
SWISH
ONCE HE MANAGES TO BEGIN, HE CONFRONTS THE TASK AT HAND WITH SURPRISING DILIGENCE.
ALL THROUGH TEARS...
UHN!
GUHN!
HIC!
FLUTTER
OH DEAR. THE PRINCE'S DIARY...
.....
WHAT'S THIS...?
"PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES ARE MY ONLY STRENGTH. EVEN MY SOCIAL SKILLS ARE LACKING.
"I'M ALWAYS SO QUICK TO FLEE FROM MY STUDIES AND OTHER THINGS I DON'T CARE FOR. BUT...
"...I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT, IF I RECORD MY MISTAKES IN THIS DIARY, I CAN IMPROVE UPON MYSELF LITTLE BY LITTLE."

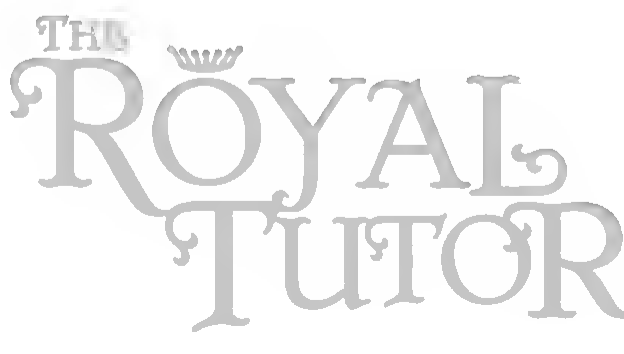

"THEN MAYBE ONE DAY...
"...I CAN BE AS AMAZING AS MY BROTHER BRUNO."
IT'S DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE PRINCE LEONHARD BEING SO SENSITIVE...
...GIVEN THE EVEREST-HIGH HAUGHTINESS HE SO DRAMATICALLY DISPLAYS.
.....

DEEP DOWN, HE MAY BE BUT A TIMID CHILD...
COULD IT BE THAT HE HIDES A WEAKER SIDE OF HIMSELF BEHIND THAT MASK OF BRAVADO?
HMPH!
OR NO CHARM AT ALL.
MRRRM...
THINKING OF IT THAT WAY, YOU COULD SAY THERE'S A BIT OF INNOCENT CHARM ABOUT HIM.
STARE
じっ

PLEASE BE PRESENT IN THE SAME PARLOR AS EARLIER AT FOUR IN THE AFTERNOON.
I'LL BE SHARING THE RESULTS OF YOUR TEST AND MY PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE STUDIES.
SLUMP
GOOD. I SHALL TAKE YOUR ANSWER SHEET, THEN.
I DON'T NEED...ANY TUTOR...!
HMPH...! YEAH, RIGHT. YOU CAN'T BREAK DOWN MY RESOLVE...
HE LEFT ...!?
SHOCK
EXCUSE ME!!
IS THAT SO?

GRAAA
FINE! WE'LL SEE HOW THAT FOUL HEINE LIKES IT WHEN I VOICE MY PROTESTS TO FATHER!
DAMN HIM! HE... HE'S NOT TAKING ME SERIOUSLY!!
AAH!
NOT THAT I WANTED HIM TO HANG AROUND!
BUT HOW HE WAS SO QUICK TO LEAVE...IT'S PERPLEXING... EXASPERATING...
HEINE!?
JOLT
KNOCK
KNOCK
HATE DIARY
I BROUGHT WHAT YOU REQUESTED.
COME AGAIN ...?
KACHAK
PARDON ME, YOUR ROYAL HIGH-NESS.
I DON'T RECALL ASKING FOR ANYTHING.
B-BUT I WAS TOLD TO BRING THIS TO YOU...


...BY HERR WITTGEN-STEIN.
Ich danke Ihnen sehr für Ihre Mühe
Heine
Thank you for your effort.
I'M ONLY SPOILING YOU THIS ONCE.
MM...I DO LOVE TORTE...
B-BUT I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING ELSE HE SAYS!
W-WELL, I SUPPOSE I'LL LET HIM OFF WITHOUT COMPLAIN-ING TO FATHER...

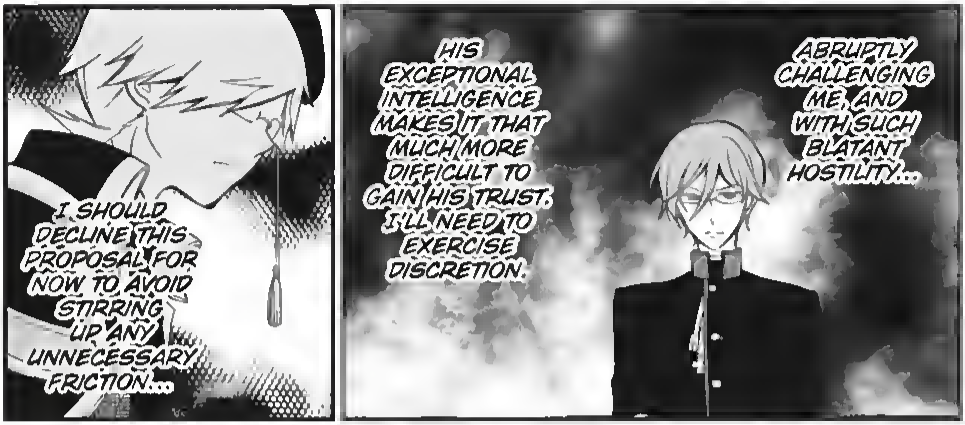

THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

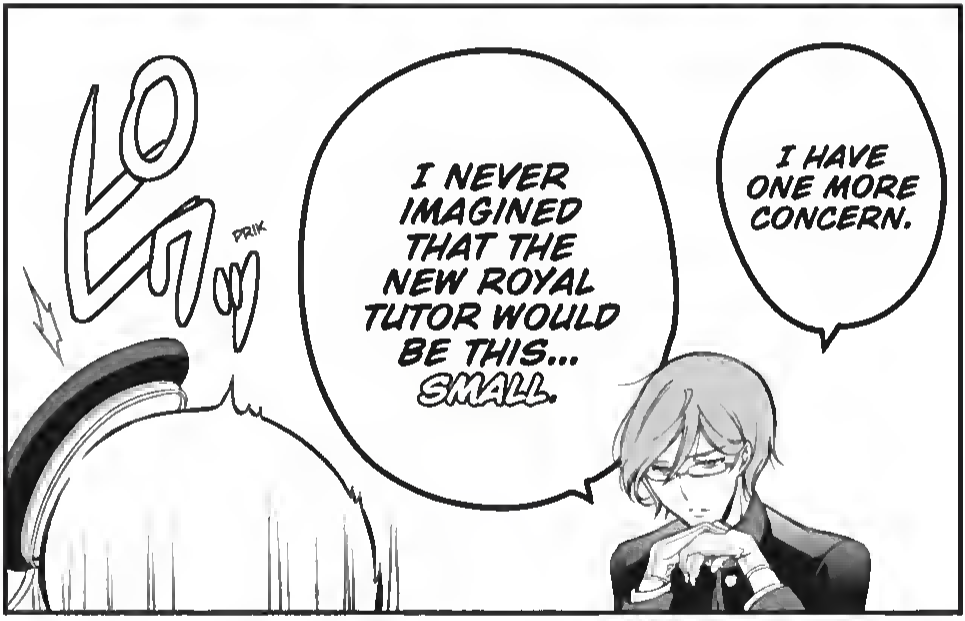
Chapter 3
Interview with a Prince II

THE THIRD BROTHER, BRUNO. SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.
A PRINCE POSSESSING EXTRAORDINARY INTELLIGENCE, HE HAS BEEN LAUDED AS A GENIUS WITH A BRILLIANT MIND FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE.
HE HAS ALREADY PUBLISHED NUMEROUS THESES. THOUGH STILL YOUNG, HE IS A BUDDING SCHOLAR SPECIALIZING IN SOCIOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY.
A "PITY"
...I WILL NOT BE SO QUICK TO TRUST THESE NOTES ON HIS BROTHER.
HMM. CONSIDERING THE PITY THAT IS PRINCE LEONHARD...

KACHAK
WELCOME, HERR WITTGENSTEIN.
KNOCK KNOCK
SIT THERE.
MY WORD...
WHAT AN IMPECCABLY TIDY ROOM.
I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE A COMPETENCY TEST.
CERTAINLY.
SWSH SWSH
THAT WENT TOO SMOOTHLY ...
THE CONTRAST IS UNSETTLING.
EARLIER
HURRY UP AND TAKE IT.
NOOO! NO TESTS!

I REALIZE THIS IS OUT OF THE BLUE...
...BUT I WILL HAVE TO TEST YOUR ABILITIES AS WELL.
TEST ME?
YES. TO EVALUATE HOW LEARNED A ROYAL TUTOR WHO HAS NEVER STUDIED AT UNIVERSITY COULD POSSIBLY BE.
MY KNOWLEDGE HAS ALWAYS SURPASSED THAT OF MY TUTORS IN ALL AREAS OF STUDY.
IF YOU ARE NO EXCEPTION, I SHALL HAVE TO DEMAND THAT YOU RESIGN POSTHASTE.
.....


I SHOULD DECLINE THIS PROPOSAL FOR NOW TO AVOID STIRRING UP ANY UNNECESSARY FRICTION...
HIS EXCEPTIONAL INTELLIGENCE MAKES IT THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO GAIN HIS TRUST. I'LL NEED TO EXERCISE DISCRETION.
ABRUPTLY CHALLENGING ME, AND WITH SUCH BLATANT HOSTILITY...



OH, PROFESSOR. HOW IMMATURE.

CLUNK
WE'LL SETTLE THIS THROUGH A GAME OF CHESS.
THE INTELLECTUAL LEVEL, THOUGHT PROCESS, AND PERSONALITY OF ONE'S OPPONENT...
ALL OF THIS CAN BE DETERMINED BY HOW ONE PLAYS CHESS.
AS YOU WERE INVITED TO THE ROYAL PALACE AT ALL, I CAN CONCLUDE THAT YOUR ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE SURPASSES A CERTAIN STANDARD.
I WOULD NOT HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.
GRUDGE FROM BEING CALLED "SMALL"
GRUDGE FROM BEING CALLED "SMALL"
I HAVE YET TO LOSE A CHESS MATCH.
DO NOT EXPECT AN EASY VICTORY.
...AH.
THERE'S DUST ON THE CHESS-BOARD...

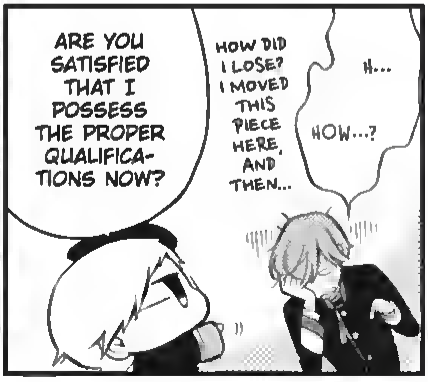
.....NH!
?
さっさっさっさっさ
WIPE WIPE WIPE WIPE WIPE
さっさっさっさっさ
WIPE WIPE WIPE WIPE WIPE
さっさ
WIPE WIPE
STAARE
UNAC-
CEPT-
ABLE...
THIS
DUST
WON'T
COME
OFF...
UPON
CLOSER
EXAM-
INATION,
THERE'S A
STAIN AS
WELL...
.....NGH!
WAIT
RIGHT
THERE!
I'LL POLISH
THIS BOARD
UNTIL IT
SHINES
LIKE A
MIRROR,
AND THEN
OUR
CONTEST
SHALL
BEGIN!
RAAAH!
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
COOLED
OFF
だらんぬ
LAZE

I SEE THAT PRINCE BRUNO'S CHARACTER IS SOMEWHAT... TIRESOME TO DEAL WITH.
POINTING THIS OUT TO THE PRINCE HIMSELF WOULD LIKELY ONLY HEAP FUEL ON THE FIRE, SO I SHAN'T SPEAK OF IT.
THERE. PERFECT. WHOLLY SATISFAC-TORY!
CLEANER

SUCH A HASSLE. I'LL MAKE THIS QUICK.
KATAK
!?

EFFORTLESS VICTORY

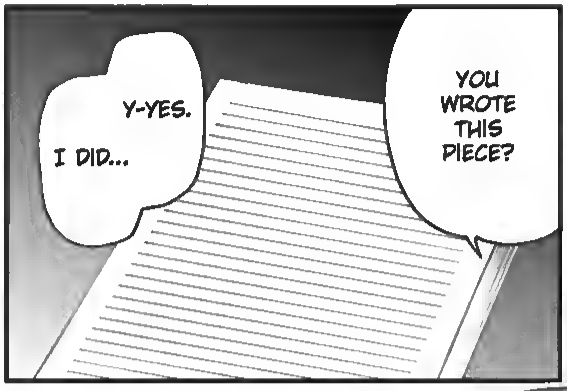
AGAIN!
TO THE NEXT MATCH!
OH? THERE'S MORE?
IT'S TOO SOON TO LET YOUR GUARD DOWN! DON'T YOU WISH TO PROVE YOURSELF!?
JAB
LAZE


ARE YOU SATISFIED THAT I POSSESS THE PROPER QUALIFICA-TIONS NOW?
HOW DID I LOSE? I MOVED THIS PIECE HERE, AND THEN...
H...
HOW...?

THIS TUTOR IS CONSIDERABLY INTELLIGENT...
N-NO, IT'S TOO SOON TO BE SURE...
I'LL TEST HIM FROM OTHER ANGLES!
WHOOOSH
MENTAL ARITHMETIC
MUSICAL ABILITY
ROYAL STRAIGHT FLUSH!!
PLAYING CARDS
THIS IS FAR BEYOND ORDINARY INTELLECT!

AGAINST ME... ME, WHO HAS HAD NUMEROUS THESES ACCLAIMED BY SCHOLARS WORLDWIDE...
NO! GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF...
JUST HOW BROAD A RANGE DO YOU HAVE?
BUILDING A FIVE-LEVEL CARD TOWER IN THE TIME I SPENT GATHERING MY THOUGHTS ...
WHAT WILL THE NEXT CHALLENGE BE, THEN?
GRIP
NO ONE CAN BEST ME IN SHEER ACADEMIC EXPERTISE!!
MY INTELLECT IS MY PRIDE...!
SHNIP
MOREOVER, EACH QUESTION IS WRITTEN IN ONE OF FIVE RANDOM LANGUAGES!
ARITHMETIC. CHEMISTRY. HISTORY. GEOGRAPHY... ONE HUNDRED CHALLENGING QUESTIONS COMPILED FROM ALL MANNER OF ACADEMIC SUBJECTS.
THE NEXT CHALLENGE: YOU'LL BE TAKING A TEST OF MY OWN PERSONAL CREATION!
※SOUND OF HIS PRIDE BREAKING INTO LITTLE PIECES
KRINNK
I MARKED IT IN RED FOR YOU.
BY THE WAY, YOU MADE ONE MISSPELLING IN "FONTAINE" ON QUESTION FIFTY-SEVEN.
DONE.
EVEN YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF STUMPED—

SO THIS IS WHAT MAKES A TRUE GENIUS...!
OVERWHELMING ABILITY... OCCASIONALLY CALLING FORTH INCREDIBLE LUCK...
...A PERFECT SCORE. IT'S USELESS. I CAN'T BEST HIM AT ANY-THING...
I DEVOTED MYSELF TO MY STUDIES SO THAT I WOULD BE SUPERIOR IN EVERYTHING. ACADEMIC SUBJECTS, CULTURE, EVEN MUSIC.
FROM AN EARLY AGE, I WAS DETERMINED TO NEVER LOSE TO ANYONE...
NGH!
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAVE I—?


Y-YES.
I DID...
YOU WROTE THIS PIECE?

HMM?

LET'S SEE. "THE KINGDOM OF GRANZREICH'S FUNDAMENTAL VALUES AS A MODERN NATION"...
HMM. YOU EVEN TOUCH UPON THE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT CONSTRUCTION OF THE RINGSTRASSE ON THE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS... EXCELLENT.

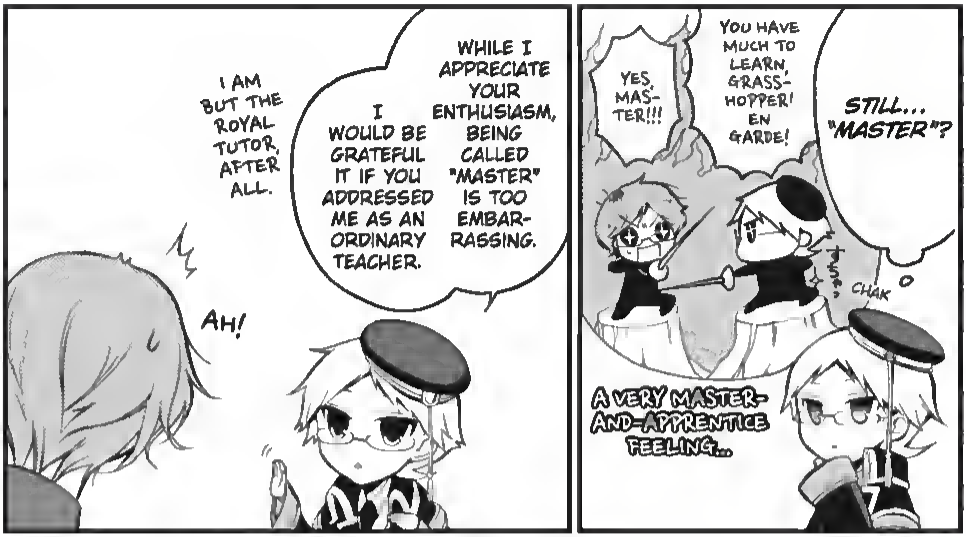
YES. AN IMPRESSIVELY IMPARTIAL PERSPECTIVE...NOT THAT OF A ROYAL, BUT OF A SCHOLAR.
YOU... COULD TELL?
THAT I POURED MY SOUL INTO THAT PARTICULAR POINT...?

SNATCH
HE MAKES A VALID POINT... IT'S A MINOR PASSAGE, BUT IT FEELS TOO RUSHED...
HOWEVER, THIS SENTENCE HERE, IN THE PASSAGE REGARDING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS THIRTY YEARS AGO, MAKES IT SOUND AS IF YOU ARE CRITICIZING THE BANKS.
YOU MIGHT CONSIDER REVISING THIS STATEMENT, MAKING YOUR ASSERTION MORE TACTFULLY.
ALSO, YOUR EXAMINATION OF THE HARMONY AMONG COMMONERS DESPITE THEIR VARIOUS ETHNICITIES...
HAD YOU CONSIDERED THAT THE PERFORMANCES OF PUBLIC OPERETTAS AT KARL THEATER MIGHT BE ANOTHER FACTOR?
N-NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
IT MAY BE SOMEWHAT OUTSIDE OF YOUR EXPERTISE, BUT YOU'LL FIND THAT TAKING THE ARTS INTO ACCOUNT CAN WIDEN YOUR POINT OF VIEW.
...INCREDIBLE... TO THINK THERE'S SOMEONE IN THIS WORLD WHO COULD DEMONSTRATE SUCH DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF MY WRITING, AND OFFER ME SUCH USEFUL GUIDANCE...
HE'S... HE'S...!
CLASP
SLAM

PLEASE, MAY I CALL YOU "MASTER" ...!?
YOU DO REALIZE I AM ONLY A TUTOR...?
I ADMIT MY DEFEAT ON ALL FRONTS.
MASTER, I CAN SAY WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT I HAVE NEVER MET ANYONE MORE WORTHY OF MY RESPECT THAN YOU...
I WAS SO OVER-COME WITH DELIGHT THAT I...
F-FORGIVE ME.
FNSH

MAS-
TER!!
90°
PLEASE TAKE ME UNDER YOUR WING!
BACKGROUND: MASTER MASTER MASTER MASTER...
UGH.
FWIP
A MOST DIS-TURBING SHOW OF ATTACH-MENT...

PRINCE BRUNO SAID THAT HE WANTED TO TEST ME.
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT MORE ENTHUSIASM WILL MAKE HIM ALL THE MORE WORTH TEACHING...
BUT PERHAPS...
...HE WAS ONLY SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE HE COULD GENUINELY LOOK UP TO AS A TEACHER.

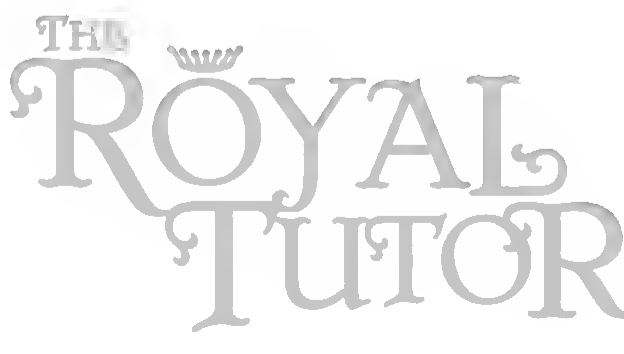

I AM BUT THE ROYAL TUTOR, AFTER ALL.
WHILE I APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU ADDRESSED ME AS AN ORDINARY TEACHER.
BEING CALLED "MASTER" IS TOO EMBARRASSING.
AH!
YES, MASTER!!!
YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN, GRASSHOPPER! EN GARDE!
STILL... "MASTER"?
CHAK
A VERY MASTER-AND-APPRENTICE FEELING...

LET'S SEE...
F-FORGIVE MY MISSTEP...

VERY WELL. IN MY INNER THOUGHTS, I WILL THINK OF YOU AS "MASTER," BUT ALOUD, I WILL ADDRESS YOU AS "PROFESSOR"!
IT'S SETTLED!
"PROFESSOR" (READ: "MASTER")
PLEASE LET GO OF THIS "MASTER" OBSESSION.

BRUNIIIE!
WHAT I MEAN TO SAY, MASTER, IS—
FORGIVE ME...BUT I DON'T FOLLOW...
IF I WERE TO EXPRESS MY DEEPLY SINCERE DESIRE TO STUDY UNDER YOU AS "x" AND THE STRENGTH OF THE WORD "PROFESSOR" AS "y"..
B-BUT I FEEL THAT THE WORD "MASTER" MORE PRECISELY EXPRESSES MY FEELINGS.
BRUNIE!
BAM
!?
LICHT!

HEY BRUNIE, I'M GONNA BORROW TEACH FOR A BIT!
LIFT
NAG
NAG
THAT CARELESS ATTITUDE OF YOURS IS ABSOLUTELY INEXCUS-ABLE—
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU!?
AWW, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? WE'RE BROTHERS!
I'VE TOLD YOU TIME AND AGAIN TO ALWAYS KNOCK THRICE BEFORE ENTERING MY ROOM!
WE BETTER RUUUN!!
GET BACK HERE! I'M NOT DONE TALKING TO YOU!!
MAS-TER!
MAS-TER!
I WAS CORRECT... HE'S A TIRESOME ONE...
DANGLE
...TO BE FRANK, I FIND MYSELF GRATEFUL FOR THE OUT.
WHILE THIS POSITION IS NOT IDEAL...

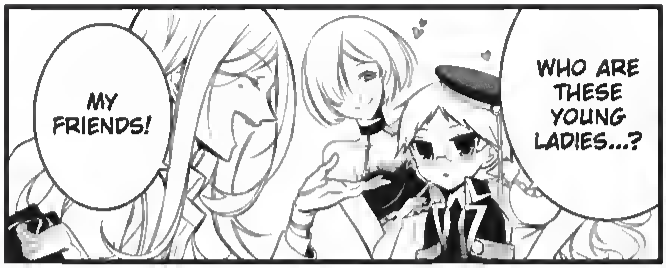

THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

Chapter 4

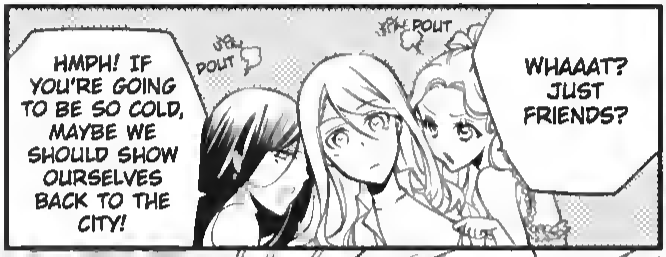
Interview with a Prince III

THE FIFTH PRINCE, LICHT. FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE.
WITH HIS HANDSOME FACE AND BRIGHT PERSONALITY, HE EASILY ESTABLISHES INTIMACY WITH ROYALS FROM OTHER KINGDOMS.
HE IS KNOWN TO SNEAK INTO THE CITY FREQUENTLY AND ENJOYS MARKED POPULARITY AMONG THE POPULACE, PARTICULARLY AMONG WOMEN.
ACCORDING TO MY NOTES, THIS SUMS UP HIS CHARACTER.
.....
THIS DOESN'T BOTHER ME AS SUCH, BUT...THE BLOOD HAS GONE TO MY HEAD.
STILL STUCK UPSIDE DOWN

LADIIIES! HE'S ALL YOOOURS!
AHEM. YOUR HIGHNESS, CARRYING YOUR TEACHER IN SUCH A WAY IS HIGHLY—
TEACH! YOU'RE INVITED TO MY ROOM!
I TAKE IT BACK. I REALLY SHOULD HAVE A WORD WITH HIM.
URP!
HE'S SOOOOO CUUUTE!
OOH, I JUST WANNA SNUGGLE-WUGGLE HIM!
OOOH!
HE'S THE CHILD TEACHER YOUR HIGHNESS TOLD US ABOUT!?
OH DEAR. WHAT WAS I SAYING?
I SUPPOSE I'LL PUT THE LECTURE ASIDE FOR THE TIME BEING.
THIS CHILDISH APPEARANCE OCCASIONALLY HAS ITS ADVANTAGES.


MY FRIENDS!
WHO ARE THESE YOUNG LADIES...?

SORRY TO SNATCH YOU UP LIKE THAT!
IT'S JUST THAT, ONCE I MENTIONED YOU, EVERY-BODY WAS GIDDY TO MEET YOU.

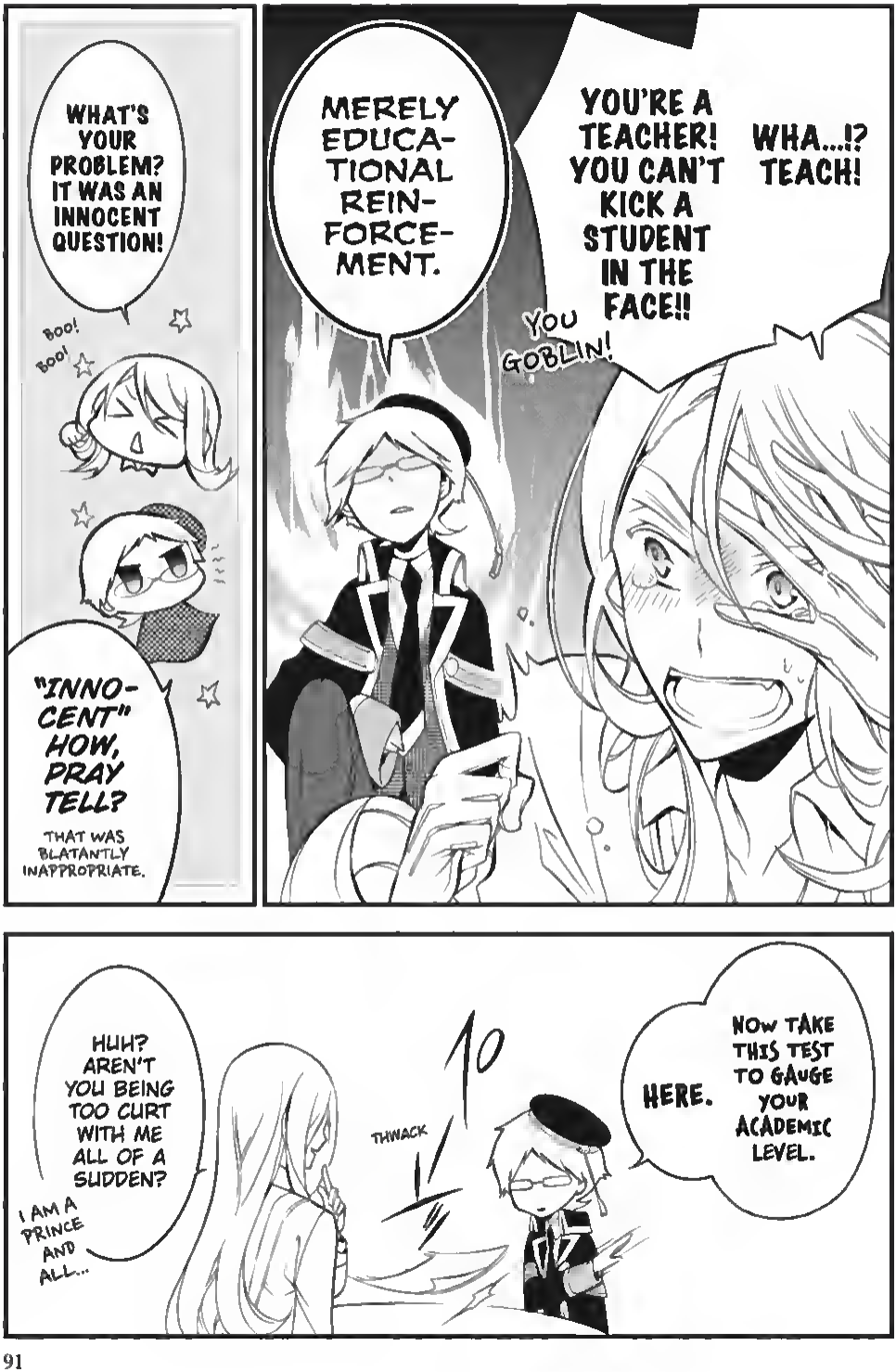

HMPH! IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE SO COLD, MAYBE WE SHOULD SHOW OURSELVES BACK TO THE CITY!
POUT
POUT
WHAAAT? JUST FRIENDS?

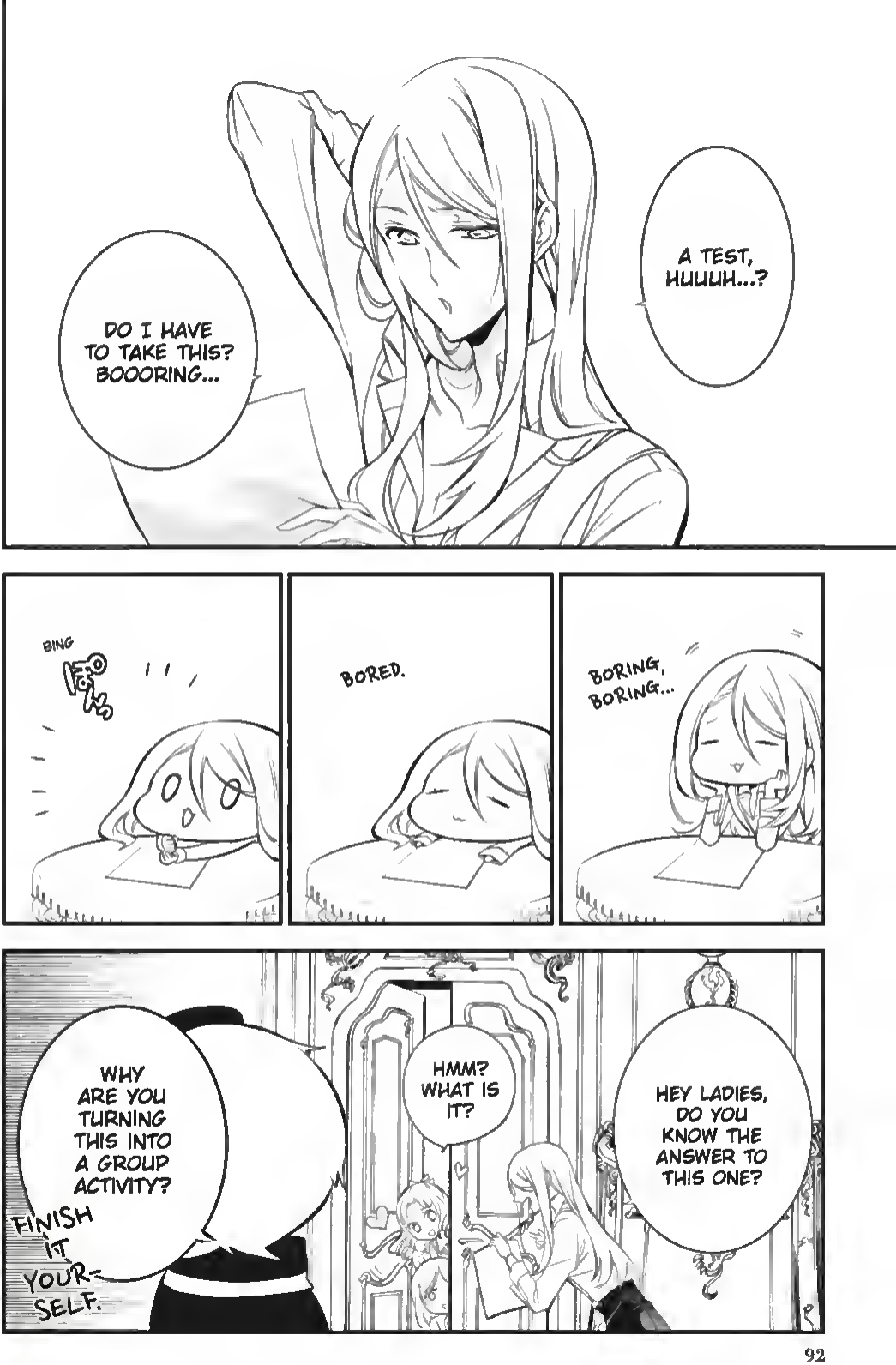
SQUEEZE
"JUST" FRIENDS? I THOUGHT YOU KNEW THAT YOU'RE VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS TO ME...
DON'T GO...
LOVE ME MORE...

... "FRIENDS" ...?
I'LL LOVE YOU SO BAD, PRINCE!
AAHN!
EEE! SOOO CUTE!

I REQUIRE A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH PRINCE LICHT.
WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO EXCUSE YOURSELVES FOR THE TIME BEING?
AWWW, HEINEEE! HOW COLD!
I SEE. WHERE MY MATERIALS MENTION THAT PRINCE LICHT FREQUENTLY SNEAKS INTO THE CITY...
...THE SUBTEXT IS THAT HE FREQUENTLY ABSCONDS TO CONSORT WITH WOMENFOLK.
APPALLING.
SORRY, DO YOU MIND?
IF YOUR HIGHNESS SAYS SO...
MY APOLOGIES...
...FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR FUN.
...NAH.
MY GOODNESS.
PRINCE LICHT IS ACTUALLY COOPERATIVE, UNLIKE THE FIRST TWO PRINCES.

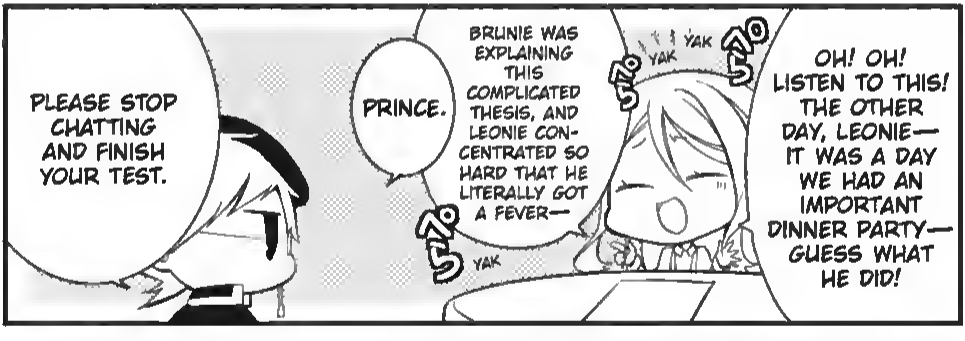
I DON'T MIND.
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IN PRIVATE ANYWAY.
.....!
IT COULDN'T BE...
YOU LOOK LIKE A CHILD, BUT YOU'RE A GROWN-UP, RIGHT?
SO...HOW GROWN ARE YOU DOWN THERE...?
じっ
STARE
WHAM
AUGH!!!


WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? IT WAS AN INNOCENT QUESTION!
Boo! Boo!
"INNOCENT" HOW, PRAY TELL?
THAT WAS BLATANTLY INAPPROPRIATE.
MERELY EDUCATIONAL REINFORCEMENT.
YOU'RE A TEACHER! YOU CAN'T KICK A STUDENT IN THE FACE!!
WHA...!? TEACH!
YOU GOBLIN!
HUH? AREN'T YOU BEING TOO CURT WITH ME ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I AM A PRINCE AND ALL...
THWACK
HERE.
NOW TAKE THIS TEST TO GAUGE YOUR ACADEMIC LEVEL.


DO I HAVE TO TAKE THIS? BOOORING...
A TEST, HUUUH...?
BING
BORED.
BORING, BORING...
WHY ARE YOU TURNING THIS INTO A GROUP ACTIVITY?
FINISH IT YOUR-SELF.
HMM? WHAT IS IT?
HEY LADIES, DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS ONE?

HOW PATRON-IZING.
SIIIGH.
YEESH, YOU'RE SO PICKY.
WELL, WHATEVER MAKES YOU HAPPY...

TOTAL WEIRDOS, AREN'T THEY? LEONIE IS ALL MUSCLE, NO BRAIN.
YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK
OH YEAH! DID YOU TALK TO LEONIE AND BRUNIE?


PLEASE STOP CHATTING AND FINISH YOUR TEST.
PRINCE.
BRUNIE WAS EXPLAINING THIS COMPLICATED THESIS, AND LEONIE CONCENTRATED SO HARD THAT HE LITERALLY GOT A FEVER—
YAK
YAK
YAK
OH! OH! LISTEN TO THIS! THE OTHER DAY, LEONIE— IT WAS A DAY WE HAD AN IMPORTANT DINNER PARTY— GUESS WHAT HE DID!

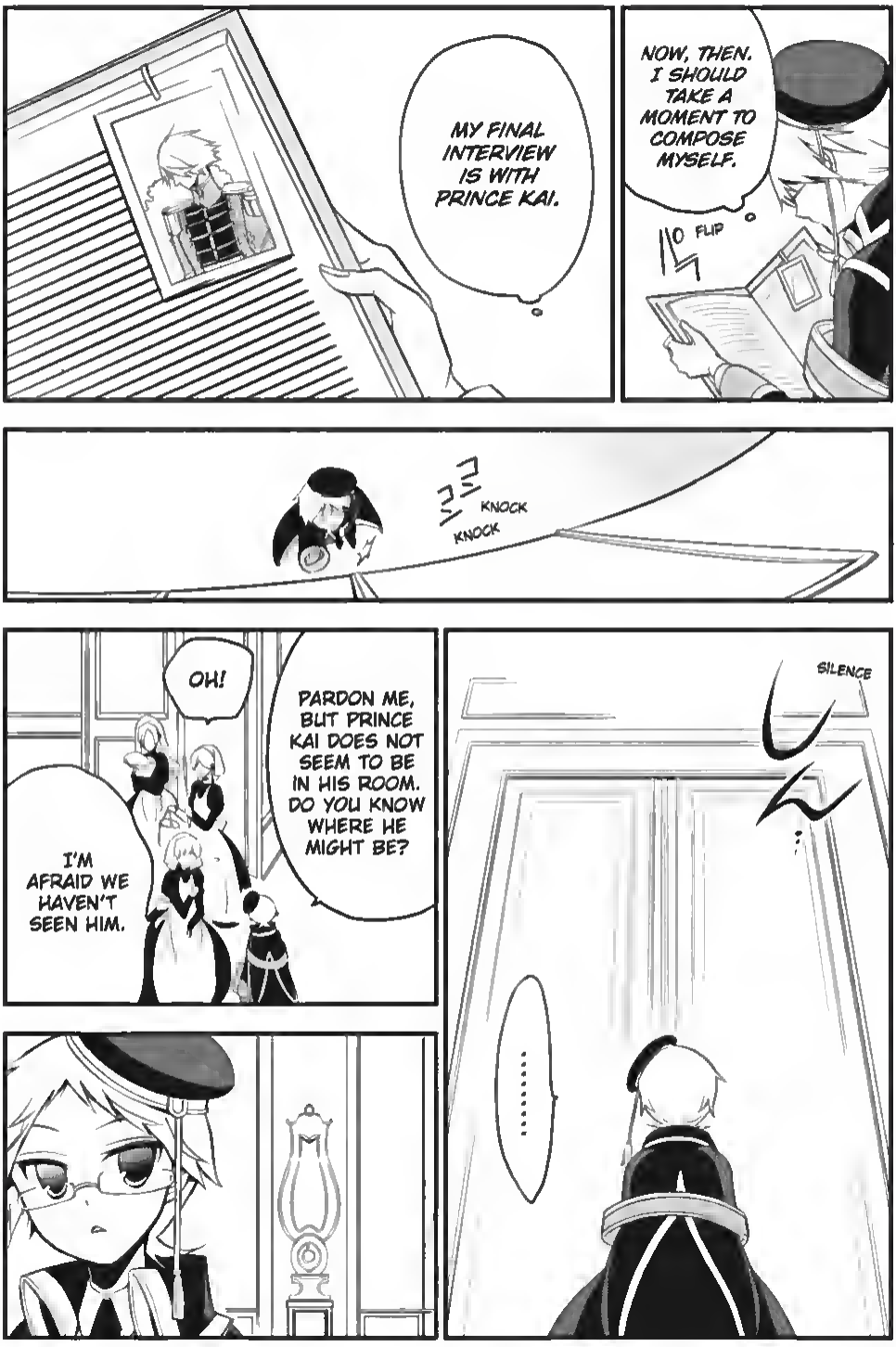
GOOD HEAVENS.
YAY!
BUT I'M ALREADY DONE!

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I MUST GO SEE THE REMAINING PRINCE.
OUCH...
KLAK
UH-HUH! PEOPLE TELL ME I CAN DO ANYTHING I PUT MY MIND TO!
WHY, ONCE YOU SAW FIT TO PUT YOUR PEN TO PAPER, YOU FINISHED IT IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
THEN PLEASE PUT YOUR MIND TO THE TASK FROM THE START. HONESTLY, I WOULD LIKE MY WASTED TIME RETURNED TO ME.
YANK
AH! WAIT! WAIT!
I HAVE A QUES-TION!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
.....
TO BE BLUNT, WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU MAY ASK IT, PROVIDED YOU UNDER-STAND I SHALL NOT ANSWER YOUR PREVIOUS QUESTION.
UH? ZWOOSH UH?
OOH. I STILL DO WANNA KNOW THAT...BUT THIS IS ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.

ALL OUR OLD TUTORS WERE UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND WHATNOT. FAMOUS PEOPLE WITH PROPER TITLES.
THAT'S A GIVEN, SINCE THEY WERE CALLED TO WORK FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY.
BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A HEINE WITTGEN-STEIN.
I HAVE TO WONDER IF YOU'RE FATHER'S PERSONAL MEDIATOR...
A SHARP STARE... AS THOUGH IT MIGHT PENETRATE MY VERY SOUL...

EH, NOT THAT I WOULD KNOW THE NAMES OF ANY PROFESSORS.
AH-HA-HA, SORRIES! I BET YOU'RE ANOTHER FAMOUS SCHOLAR WHO WON SOME AWARD OR SOME SUCH, RIGHT?
THAT STUFF BORES ME TO TEARS. I DON'T KEEP UP WITH ANY OF IT. MY BAD!
.....
WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SERIOUS DIALOGUE.
WEREN'T WE, TEACH?
PRINCEY-POO? ALL DONE?
OH DEAR, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
YOU LOOK SO SERI-OUS!
...IT'S NOTH-ING.
HE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS AND THAT. ♡
YOU KNOOOW, ADULT PROBLEMS. ♡
WHACK
OWIE!
EDUCA-TIONAL REIN-FORCE-MENT!!
E E E E! E E E!

IT FEELS ALMOST AS THOUGH HE WAS DANCING ME ABOUT IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND...
...HMM...
EXCUSE ME.
SEE YOU LATER, TEACH!
BYE-BYE, HEINE CUTIE!
THE YOUNGEST OF THE BROTHERS, EH.
UNDERESTIMATING HIM BASED ON HIS AGE COULD PROVE TO BE A GRAVE MISSTEP.


MY FINAL INTERVIEW IS WITH PRINCE KAI.
NOW, THEN. I SHOULD TAKE A MOMENT TO COMPOSE MYSELF.
FLIP
KNOCK KNOCK
OH!
PARDON ME, BUT PRINCE KAI DOES NOT SEEM TO BE IN HIS ROOM. DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE?
I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.
SILENCE
.....

I'VE CUT IT CLOSE. ONLY ONE MORE HOUR UNTIL THE CLOCK STRIKES FOUR, WHEN I HAVE MY APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRINCES.
TMP
I NEED TO FIND PRINCE KAI—AND QUICKLY!

Chapter 5

Interview with a Prince IV

I MUST MAKE HASTE...
PUNCTUALITY IS THE MOST ELEMENTARY STEP TOWARD BUILDING TRUST.
WHIRL

HMM?
HAFF! HAFF!
がぷっ
CHOMP
OH DEAR.
A PET KEPT HERE IN THE PALACE, PERHAPS?
I BESEECH YOU—RETURN MY NOTES, DOG!
TRIP

!!?
A CORPSE ...!?
IN THE PALACE COURT-YARD...?
HFF
FLIP
NO...THE BOY IS MERELY ASLEEP.
ZZZ...

THE SECOND PRINCE, KAI. SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE.
A TACITURN BOY WHO RARELY APPEARS BEFORE THE PUBLIC.
HE WAS SUSPENDED FROM MILITARY ACADEMY AFTER A VIOLENT OUTBURST AND IS INFAMOUS FOR HIS FEROCIOUS DISPOSITION.
I'VE FOUND HIM. PRINCE KAI.
THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE PRINCES...!

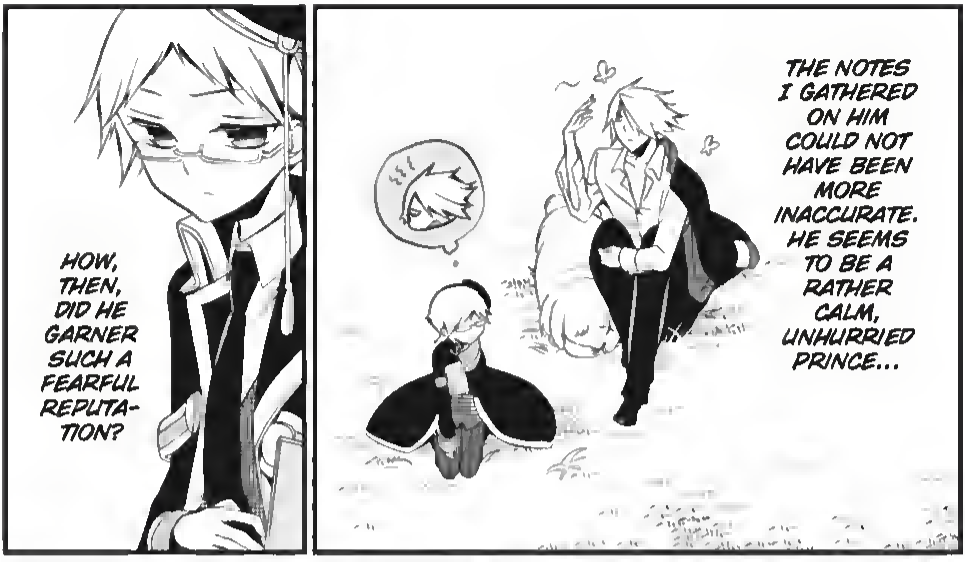
.....
NOW, THEN. HOW SHALL I APPROACH HIM?
THE GLARE HE TURNED AT ME EARLIER— A HINT OF HOSTILITY LURKED IN THOSE EYES...
GLARE
FWOOSH
!

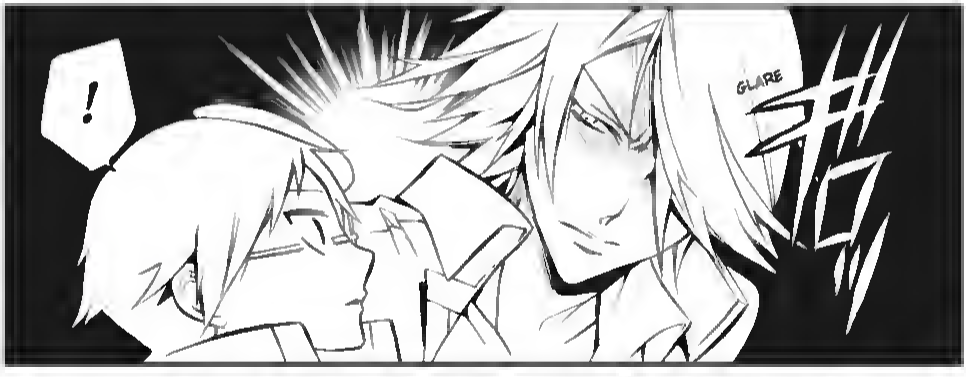
GRAB
YANK
...NH!
...KNH...!

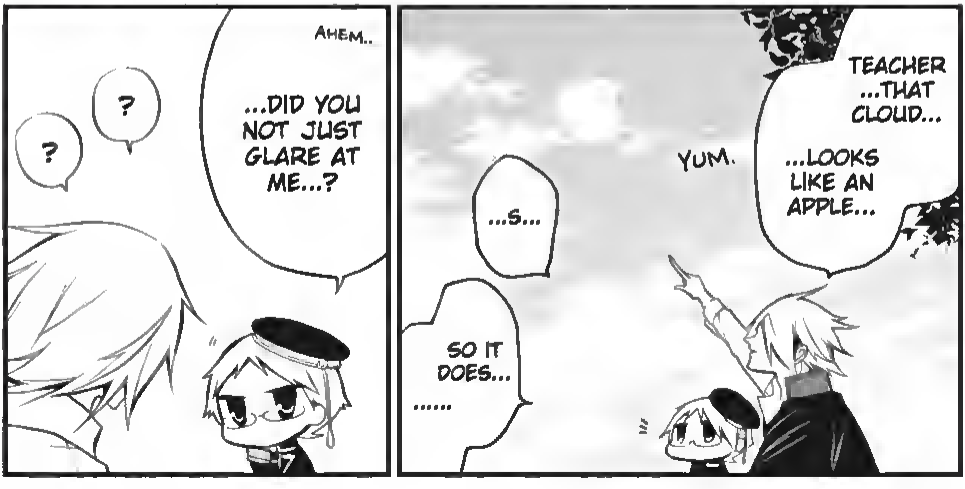
RUB
...
OOPS.
DROP
PET
"OOPS" ...?
HE MISTOOK ME FOR THE DOG ...?

GOOD DAY, YOUR HIGHNESS. TAKING AN AFTERNOON NAP, ARE WE?
HE ALREADY CONSIDERS ME HIS TEACHER, DOES HE?
PERHAPS I CAN BE STRAIGHT-FORWARD WITH HIM.
...NEW...
...TEACHER...
YES, IT IS CALM AND QUIET. AN EXCELLENT CHOICE.
THIS IS...
...MY FAVORITE PLACE TO NAP...
A PRINCE'S STATION BRINGS WITH IT MUCH PRESSURE, I'M SURE.
THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR PRINCE KAI, THE ELDEST PRINCE IN THE PALACE WHILE HIS OLDER BROTHER IS AWAY...
...I SLEEP HERE...
SOME-TIMES... EVERY-THING TIRES ME...
THAT'S WHEN...

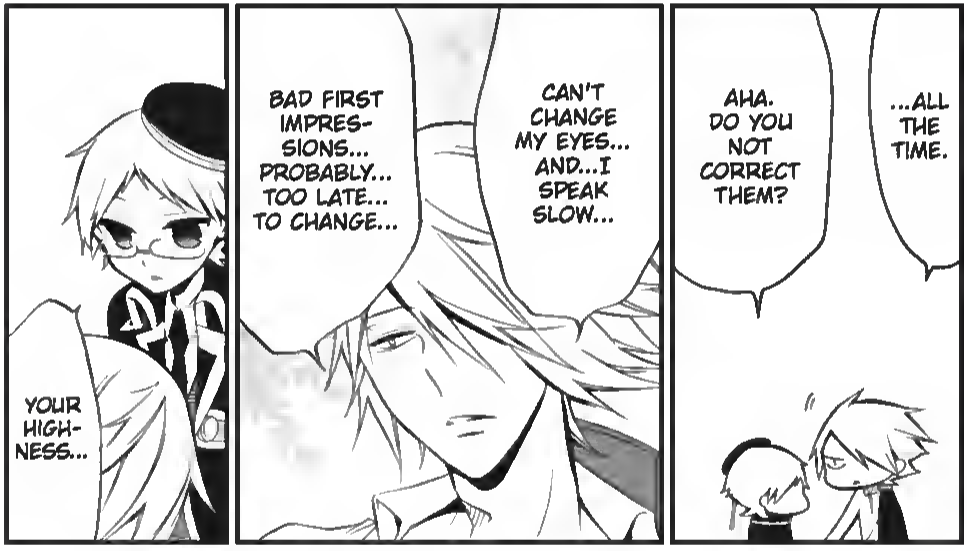
TOO TIRED TO TALK...
TOO TIRED TO DRESS...
TOO TIRED TO BREATHE...
...YOU'VE DONE WELL TO SURVIVE THIS LONG, THEN...
.....
AH...BUT... I LOVE TO EAT...
TWINKLE
I DIDN'T ASK...


HOW, THEN, DID HE GARNER SUCH A FEARFUL REPUTATION?
THE NOTES I GATHERED ON HIM COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE INACCURATE. HE SEEMS TO BE A RATHER CALM, UNHURRIED PRINCE...


!
GLARE


AHEM..
...DID YOU NOT JUST GLARE AT ME...?
?
?
TEACHER ...THAT CLOUD...
...LOOKS LIKE AN APPLE...
YUM.
...S...
SO IT DOES...
.....

PRINCE, IF I MAY WAGER A GUESS, DO YOUR SHARP EYES...
...HAPPEN TO LEAVE OTHERS WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU ARE GLARING AT THEM, WHEN YOU ARE SIMPLY WEARING AN ORDINARY EXPRESSION?

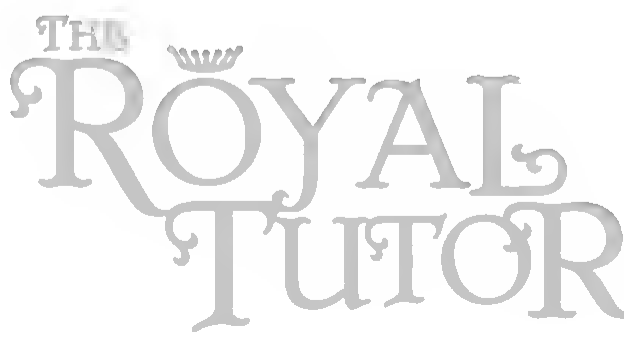

...ALL THE TIME.
AHA. DO YOU NOT CORRECT THEM?
CAN'T CHANGE MY EYES... AND...I SPEAK SLOW...
BAD FIRST IMPRES-SIONS... PROBABLY... TOO LATE... TO CHANGE...
YOUR HIGH-NESS...

LOVES CUTE THINGS
PET
PET
I MUST ASK— WHY HAVE YOU BEEN PETTING MY HAND?

I'M... HAPPY... TO HAVE A NEW TEACHER...
IN THAT CASE, IS IT SAFE TO ASSUME THAT YOU NEVER GLARED AT ME...
...AND HOLD NO HOSTILITY TOWARD ME?
PET
YOU'RE... THE FIRST TEACHER...
...TO TALK TO ME...
THANK YOU...
PRINCE KAI...
TEACHER... IS THAT... A TEST...?
FOR ME...?
AH. YES, IT IS.

PRINCE KAI...AS EXPECTED OF THE SECOND SON...
...IS A MATURE, GENTLE FELLOW.
PLEASE COMPLETE IT.
SKRICH
SKRICH
カリ
カリ
TEACHER... ME...AND MY BROTHERS... ARE IN YOUR HANDS...
PLEASED TO MEET YOU...
THE PLEA-SURE IS ALL MINE.
NOD
ニノ
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

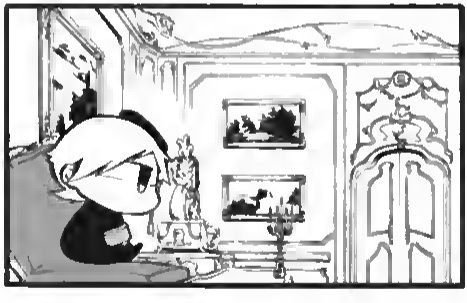
"YOU'RE... THE FIRST TEACHER...TO TALK TO ME... THANK YOU..."
.....
AND HERE I EXPECTED HIM TO BE THE MOST UNMANAGE-ABLE OF THE BROTHERS...
INTELLIGENCE GATHERED BY A THIRD PARTY SIMPLY CANNOT BE RELIED UPON.
RRRIP
I'LL HAVE TO PEN MY OWN NOTES FROM SCRATCH.
HE RE-EVALUATED HIS DUTIES AS THE ROYAL TUTOR WITH A RENEWED VIGOR.

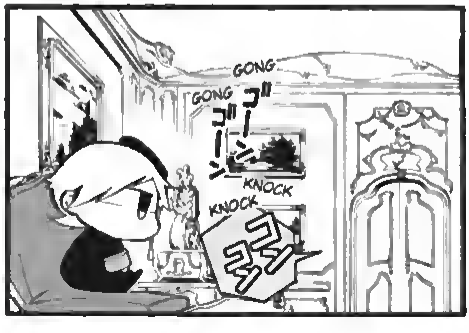

THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

Chapter 6

You Needn't Welcome Me

ALMOST TIME FOR OUR APPOINT-MENT.



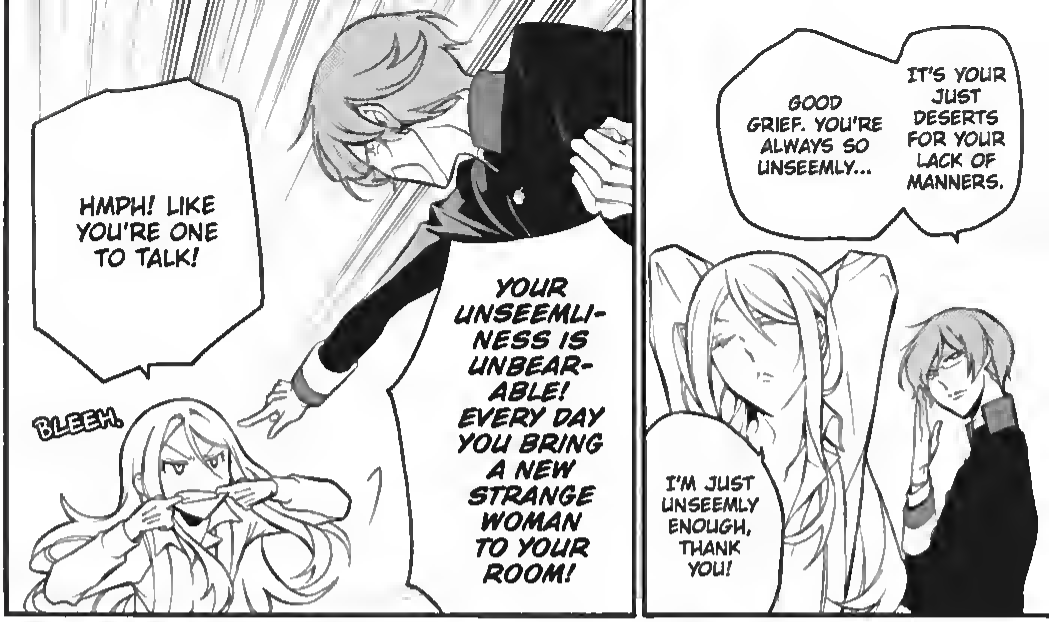

GONG
GONG
KNOCK
KNOCK

Kai
Bruno
Leonhard
Licht
BUT WILL EACH OF THEM MAKE AN APPEAR-ANCE?

I AM AT YOUR DISPOSAL, MASTER!
FWIP
KACHAK
WELL, I HAD NO DOUBT THAT YOU WOULD BE FIRST TO ARRIVE...
P-"PROFESSOR," THEN...?
BADUM
BADUM
THAT WILL DO.
WHY THE POUNDING HEART...?
M-MY MISTAKE!
PRAY, COULD YOU STOP ADDRESSING ME AS "MASTER"?
PARTICULARLY IN FRONT OF YOUR BROTHERS.
IT'S. UNCOMFORTABLE...
KACHAK

HULLO, TEACH!♪
TA-DAA!
...TEACHER... I'M... HERE...
GOOD DAY.
GUH!
YOU TWO! WHY IS IT...
...YOU FAIL TO ADDRESS THE PROFESSOR WITH THE PROPER FORMALITY!?
GEEZ, WHO CARES? YOU'RE TOO UPTIGHT, BRUNIE!
MAS—THE PROFESSOR DESERVES YOUR RESPECT!
MAS—THE PROFESSOR MAY NOT SCOLD YOU, BUT IT STILL HOLDS TRUE!
WHY DO YOU KEEP SAYING "MAS," BRUNIE?
?

I'M JEALOUS!!
WHEN THE HELL DID YOU GET SO...?
HOW INEXCUSABLY IMPOLITE... AND ENVIABLE, SO ENVIABLE...
TCH.
PLEASE CALM DOWN.
IT'S COOL, RIGHT, TEACH?
WE'RE BEST BUDS AND ALL, NO?
WHA...!?
YAY!
AH. COULD I ASK YOU NOT TO PUT YOUR HAND ON MY SHOULDER?
YOUR HIGHNESSES, AFTER ALL, HOLD A FAR HIGHER STATION THAN I.
YOU MAY SPEAK TO ME HOWEVER YOU LIKE.
WH—? HEY! YOU'RE BEING COLD TO ME!!
AH. WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME A LITTLE MORE SPACE?
YOU'RE TOO CLOSE.
IT IS MY PERSONAL BELIEF AND MY PHILOSOPHY AS A TEACHER THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TEACHER AND STUDENT SHOULD BE BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF TRUST...


HMPH! LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!
BLEEH.
YOUR UNSEEMLINESS IS UNBEARABLE! EVERY DAY YOU BRING A NEW STRANGE WOMAN TO YOUR ROOM!
GOOD GRIEF. YOU'RE ALWAYS SO UNSEEMLY...
IT'S YOUR JUST DESERTS FOR YOUR LACK OF MANNERS.
I'M JUST UNSEEMLY ENOUGH, THANK YOU!

I BEG YOUR PARDON? WELL, I WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER WHO IS ROTTEN TO HIS VERY CORE!
TCH. I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STUCK WITH THIS HARD-HEADED NITPICKER FOR A BROTHER!
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY!? YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT JEALOUS OF YOUR KID BROTHER JUST 'COS YOU CAN'T GET A GIRL, EGGHEAD?

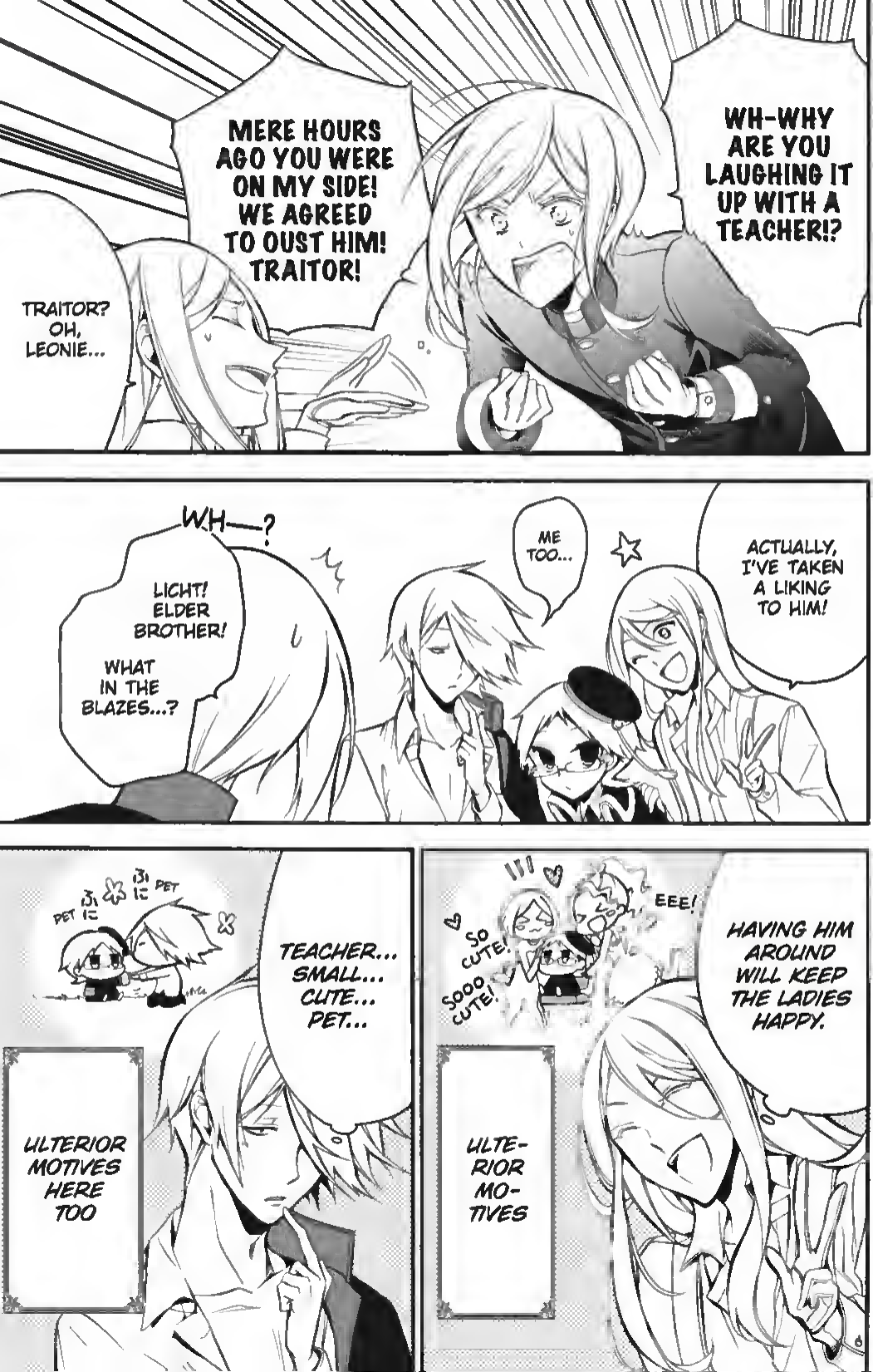
PRINCE KAI.
SWOOP
I'M NOT GONNA BE LECTURED BY SOMEONE AS SNOBBY AS YOU!
GRR! SIT DOWN AND I'LL BEAT THE ROT OUT OF YOU!
SILENT
ちょこーん
SHALL I INTERVENE?
HMM.

GLARE
HAAH...
!
BE...
DUN-DUN
...NICE...!

THEY STOPPED.
SORRY, KAINIE...
I LOST MY TEMPER...I APOLOGIZE, BROTHER...
BRUNO... LICHT...
...BE NICE...!
...LOVE ALL OF MY BROTHERS...
...BEST WHEN ALL GET ALONG...
HE'S SO PURE-HEARTED, YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH HIM.
YOU MAKE A MOST EFFECTIVE INTERMEDIARY, PRINCE KAI.
WELL, YOU ARE THE OLDEST HERE.
CLAP
CLAP
...NOW, THEN. THE ONLY ABSENT BROTHER IS PRINCE LEONHARD.
WILL HE COME ...?
...WITH TEACHER... TOO...
WHY, I'M HONORED.

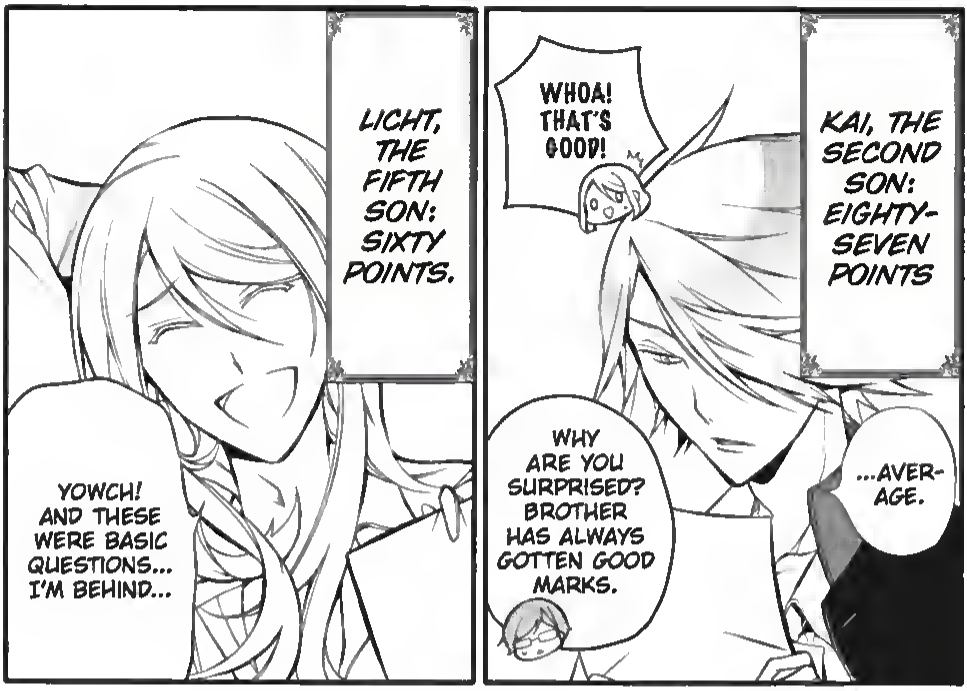
MEAN-WHILE, LEON-HARD...
DID ALL OF MY BROTHERS FINISH THEIR INTERVIEWS WITH THAT PIP-SQUEAK OF A TEACHER?
...NONE OF THE OTHER TUTORS WERE ABLE TO CATCH ME WHEN I RAN FROM LESSONS.
IN THE END, THEY ALL RETREATED.
...OR EVEN SO MUCH AS SPEAK TO DEAR BROTHER KAI.
NOR COULD THEY MOTIVATE LICHT...
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THEY NEVER HAD ANYTHING TO TEACH DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO. HE WAS ALREADY TOO SUPERIOR.

CREAK
MAYBE I'LL HAVE MYSELF A LOOK AT HIS CRYING FACE.
THAT INSOLENT HEINE WILL BE CRUSHED BY THE WEIGHT OF HIS OWN POWERLESSNESS BY NOW...
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH...
LEON-HARD!?
YOU ARE LATE, PRINCE LEONHARD.
BAM
NGAAH


WH-WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING IT UP WITH A TEACHER!?
MERE HOURS AGO YOU WERE ON MY SIDE! WE AGREED TO OUST HIM! TRAITOR!
TRAITOR? OH, LEONIE...
ACTUALLY, I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO HIM!
ME TOO...
WH—?
LICHT! ELDER BROTHER!
WHAT IN THE BLAZES...?
HAVING HIM AROUND WILL KEEP THE LADIES HAPPY.
EEE!
SO CUTE!
SOOO CUTE!
ULTE-RIOR MO-TIVES
TEACHER... SMALL... CUTE... PET...
PET
PET
ULTERIOR MOTIVES HERE TOO

GRIT
I WON'T BE FOOLED!
H-HE'S BRAIN-WASHED THEM!
STAGGER
N-NO...HOW DID HE WIN BOTH OF THEM OVER SO QUICKLY?
WHIRL
HE CAN'T HAVE BRAIN-WASHED YOU, YES!?
BRUNO, MY BROTH-ER!
PROFESSOR HEINE IS A TRULY EXCELLENT TUTOR, YET HE COULD NOT BE MORE HUMBLE. A MAN OF EXEMPLARY CHARACTER. SUCH IS THE MARK OF A TRUE GENIUS...
BROTHER!!
THE MOST HOPE-LESSLY AFFLICTED

NOW, THEN, AS YOU ARE ALL GATHERED ...
...I'LL RETURN YOUR TESTS FROM TODAY.
HUH!?
TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I CAME HERE FOR.
I'M LEAV-ING!
HOLD ON, LEONIE.
YOU ALREADY TOOK THE TEST. MAY AS WELL FIND OUT YOUR GRADE!
WH—
GRAB
IT'S A CONTEST— YOU VERSUS ME!
UNHAND ME, LICHT, YOU FOOL!
AHEM. TO BEGIN ...
BRUNO, THE THIRD SON: ONE HUNDRED POINTS
100
NATURALLY.
BLEEEH.
FREAK.


LICHT, THE FIFTH SON: SIXTY POINTS.
YOWCH! AND THESE WERE BASIC QUESTIONS... I'M BEHIND...
KAI, THE SECOND SON: EIGHTY-SEVEN POINTS
WHOA! THAT'S GOOD!
...AVER-AGE.
WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED? BROTHER HAS ALWAYS GOTTEN GOOD MARKS.

LEONHARD, THE FOURTH SON: ONE POINT
.....
FWIP
.....
.....
.....

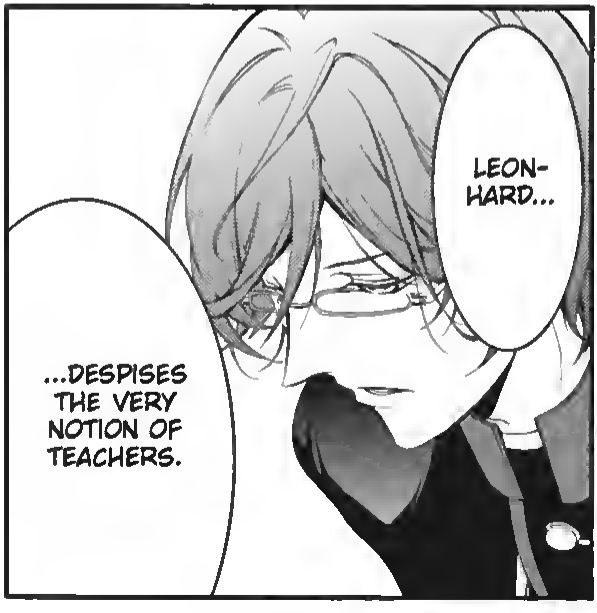
DID YOU FILL IN THE ANSWER SHEET WITH YOUR ANSWERS OFF BY ONE...?
I'M SURE THIS IS SOME KIND OF MISTAKE. LET ME SEE IT.
.....
TH-THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLY LOW...
EVEN WITH AN AVERSION TO ACADEM-ICS...
!?
AH-HA-HA-HA! LEONIE, FOR REAL!?
I'M... ERR... SORRY...
GSK
KYEH HEH HEH!
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE ANY TESTS...
URGH.
Leonhard
HE ANSWERED EVERY QUES-TION IN THE RIGHT PLACE, YET EVERY SINGLE ONE OF HIS ANSWERS IS INCOR-RECT...
HIS LONE POINT IS A PITY POINT FOR WRITING HIS NAME...!

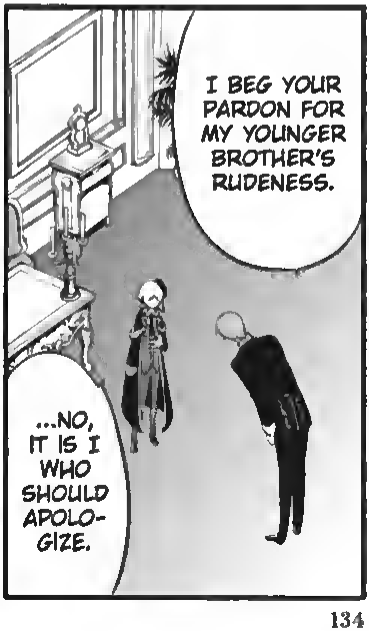
DON'T NEED TO BE UPSET... YOU'RE A GOOD BOY...
ATHLETICS... ARE YOUR FORTE...
PAT
なでっ
THANK YOU, BROTH-ER!
H...
HOW CAN I ENCOUR-AGE HIM?
I'LL SHUT THIS ONE UP FOR NOW, AT LEAST, BUT...
MMH! MMFH!
Y-YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT...! I'LL BE OKAY...
...AS LONG AS I MAKE UP FOR IT ELSE-WHERE...!
HOWEVER, YOU...
...HMM?
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
SHOCK
BLUNT
STILL, THIS SCORE IS SIMPLY DREADFUL, PRINCE LEONHARD.

I-I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HUMILIATED... THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU FORCED ME TO TAKE THAT STUPID TEST!
I...
I...
I KNEW TEACHERS WERE THE ENEMY!!
DASH
AH.
LEON-HARD!
LEO-NIE!

ZOOM
GAH! TOO FAST!

.....
YEAH...HE WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE.
WOOOW. NOBODY CAN CATCH UP TO LEONIE WHEN HE RUNS FULL TILT.


LEON-HARD...
...DESPISES THE VERY NOTION OF TEACHERS.


I BEG YOUR PARDON FOR MY YOUNGER BROTHER'S RUDENESS.
...NO, IT IS I WHO SHOULD APOLO-GIZE.

OUR FIRST TUTOR WAS EXCEPTIONALLY STRICT.
AS LEONHARD WAS NEVER ACADEMICALLY-INCLINED, HE IN PARTICULAR WAS AT THE MERCY OF THE TUTOR'S ROD.
HE HAS REVILED ALL MANNER OF EDUCATORS EVER SINCE.
IT'S NOT THAT HE THINKS ILL OF YOU IN PARTICULAR—
IN THAT CASE...
...I'LL HAVE TO TEACH HIM.
WHA...?

I AM HIS TUTOR.
I'LL BE THE ONE TO TEACH HIM...
...THAT TEACHERS ARE NOT THE ENEMY.

TMP
キィ
CREAK
!
LEAP
N-NO WAY! WE'RE THREE FLOORS UP!
PRO-FES-SOR...
PROFES-SOR!
MASTERRR!!
U-UH... "MASTER" ...?
ブルッ
SHIVER
A MOMENT OF ALARM FOR ALL THOSE PRESENT

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
WHEN I'M MOVING, I CAN GET AWAY FROM THE BAD THINGS...
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND SUCH A SIMPLE QUESTION?
PRINCE LEONHARD!
PRINCE.

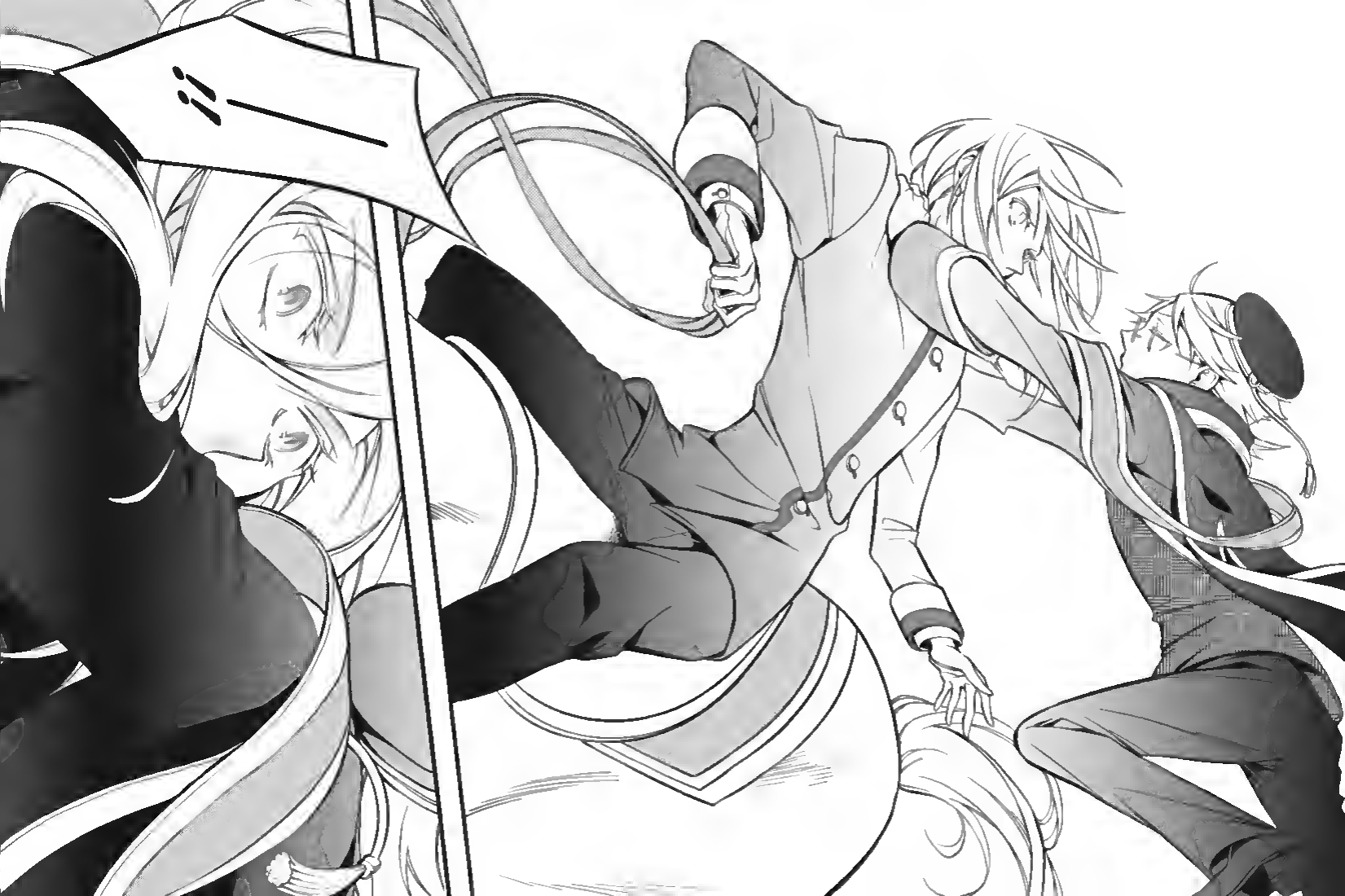
PRINCE!!
COME BACK HERE!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
SQUEEZE
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I SHOULDN'T.
I'M ALWAYS RUNNING.
I THINK I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, EVER SINCE BACK THEN—
PRINCE.
PRINCE LEONHARD.

RRRRUMBLE
RRRRUMBLE

UWAAAH!!
THAT RIDING TECH-NIQUE...
IT'S LUDI-CROUS ...!!

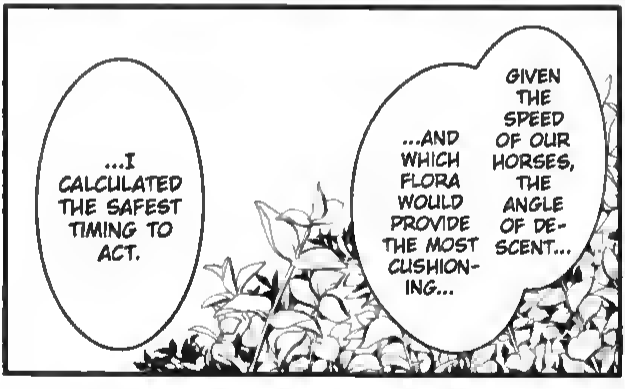
I AM SORRY THAT YOU MUST SEE ME IN SUCH AN IMPROPER RIDING POSTURE.
RUMBLE
YOU SEE, AS MY LEGS ARE TOO SHORT, THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD RIDE. I DO HOPE YOU'LL EXCUSE IT.
RUMBLE
FUFUFUFU
RRRRUMBLE
WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO HALT YOUR HORSE?
I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
NH!!
GH!!
NO ONE RIDES LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE SCARING ME! STAY AWAY! IDIOT!!
IF YOU REFUSE TO STOP, YOU LEAVE ME WITH NO CHOICE.
THIS WILL BE A BIT ROUGH...

...BUT IT'S IN THE NAME OF EDUCA-TION.
LEAP
DROP
HUH ...?



WAUGH!!
WHUMP

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP


GIVEN THE SPEED OF OUR HORSES, THE ANGLE OF DESCENT...
...AND WHICH FLORA WOULD PROVIDE THE MOST CUSHIONING...
...I CALCULATED THE SAFEST TIMING TO ACT.

RUSTLE
むくっ
I APOLOGIZE FOR RESORTING TO EXTREME MEASURES.
HOWEVER, THE SOONER ONE CORRECTS A MISUNDERSTANDING, THE BETTER, IN MY OPINION.

PAT
PAT
AS SUCH, I BELIEVE YOU ARE UNHURT...

OH DEAR.
TWITCH
TWITCH
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU!?
NONE OF THE OTHER TUTORS EVER CAME CLOSE TO CATCHING UP TO ME...!
M-MAD-NESS... IT'S NOT POSSIBLE ...
NOT WITH THAT ABSURD RIDING POSTURE...
GLIDE
HOW-EVER...
...IF IT PLEASES YOU...
...SHALL I TELL YOU WHY I WAS ABLE TO CATCH UP WITH YOU?
...I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCUSS MY BACK-GROUND.

...AM CUT FROM A DIFFERENT CLOTH THAN ANY OF THE TUTORS YOU'VE HAD BEFORE.
THAT IS BECAUSE I...
.....!
I DO NOT INTEND TO BLAME YOU AT ALL FOR HAVING NO INCLINATION FOR ACADEMICS.
B-BUT YOU SAID MY SCORE WAS DREADFUL...

CHANGING THAT IS A TEACHER'S JOB, IS IT NOT?
YOU WILL ATTEND LESSONS TAILORED TO EACH OF THESE AREAS. WITH THE GOAL OF BECOMING A WORTHY CANDIDATE FOR THE CROWN.
IT ALSO EXTENDS TO MANNERS, SOCIAL SKILLS, AND SO ON.
MOREOVER, MY TUTORING DOES NOT END AT ACADEMIC SUBJECTS.
.....
...WHEN YOU TOOK OFF.
I WAS ABOUT TO EXPLAIN THIS...
THUS, THERE IS NO NEED TO BE DISCOURAGED OVER ONE BAD MARK.
HOWEVER, I AM THE ONLY TEACHER WHO CAN CATCH YOU.
HOW DOES THIS SOUND TO YOU?
YOU DO NOT NEED TO WELCOME ME AS ROYAL TUTOR.
SHP

IF YOU WANT TO STOP RUNNING AWAY...
...WILL YOU NOT TAKE MY HAND AND GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT?
.....

ちょこん
PINCH

.....
.....
WHAT'S THIS, THEN?

YOUR TROPHY FOR CATCHING UP TO ME.
...THIS MUCH.

I SUPPOSE I CAN TRY...
...THIS MUCH.

...VERY WELL.
I AM AT YOUR SERVICE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
.....
.....

A...
ANYWAY, THE SUN IS ABOUT TO SET!
SNATCH
I'M GOING BACK.
MY BROTHERS AND GRAND-MOTHER WILL BE WORRIED.
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
...HMM? WHERE ARE WE?
WHILE WE ARE STILL WITHIN THE PALACE GROUNDS...
...THEY ARE SO VAST THAT WE COULD NOT MAKE OUR WAY HOME BEFORE DARK ON FOOT.
PATRIZIA, WHERE HAVE YOU GONE? RETURN TO ME!
FWEET
.....
HEY.
THE HORSES AREN'T COMING BACK.
.....
.....
.....
WHY...

WHY AM I STUCK SPENDING THE NIGHT CAMPING OUT!? I'M A PRINCE...!
HERE, I ROASTED SOME NUTS.
BECAUSE YOU GALLOPED SO FAR AWAY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LET THE HORSES RUN OFF!!
I TAKE IT BACK! I DON'T NEED A TUTOR!
GET OUT!
"GET OUT"? I CAN'T BE ANY MORE OUTSIDE THAN THIS.
SHUT UP!
MEAN-WHILE, AT THE PAL-ACE...
MASTER!! LEON-HARD!!
AAAAAH!
Y-YOUR HIGHNESS PLEASE WAIT! THE ROYAL GUARD WILL CONDUCT A SEARCH!
EH, THEY'LL BE BACK IN THE MORNING. COS THEY LIVE HERE AND ALL!
NOD

SILENCE
HMM ...?
HERR WITTGEN-STEIN...?
GOOD MORNING, HERR WITTGEN-STEIN.
IT IS TIME TO RISE FOR THE DAY.
KACHAK
KNOCK
KNOCK
SQUOOSH
みっちり
SIR!!

Chapter 7

The Princes' Secret!?

GOOD MORNING.
I HEARD HE ROLLED INTO THE SPACE BETWEEN HIS BED AND THE WALL! HOW ADOR- ABLE!
TEE-HEE! THERE GOES THE LITTLEST TUTOR...
GOOD MORNING, HERR WITTGEN-STEIN!
...IT WAS QUITE THE EVENTFUL ONE.
ALTHOUGH YESTERDAY WAS BUT THE FIRST DAY OF MY TENURE AS ROYAL TUTOR...
PRINCE LEONHARD AND I WERE LOST IN THE PALACE GARDENS.
THANKFULLY, WE WERE RESCUED SAFE AND SOUND, AND NOTHING CAME OF IT.

THIS IS YOUR ROOM, HERR WITTGENSTEIN.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
A MARVELOUS ROOM FOR A COMMONER LIKE MYSELF.
THANK YOU.
CAN'T GET COMFORT-ABLE...
ROLL
ROLL
ごろごろ
ごろごろ
ROLL
ROLL
TWINKLE
TWINKLE
SHOONK
スポッ
AH.
.....
SOFT
ふか
ふか～
SOFT
...I DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP.
UNABLE TO ESCAPE MY TINY PRISON BY MY OWN POWER...
みっちり
SQUISH
EEK!
THIS MORN-ING

NOW THEN, TODAY'S SCHEDULE... PRINCE LEONHARD, PRINCE BRUNO, PRINCE LICHT, PRINCE KAI.
I PLANNED THEIR LESSONS IN THE SAME ORDER AS YESTERDAY'S INTERVIEWS.
AS A LIVE-IN TUTOR, I'LL HAVE TO ADAPT TO THE ROYAL LIFESTYLE.
GROGGY GROGGY しょぼしょぼ
"I SUPPOSE I CAN TRY THIS MUCH"...
PINCH ちょん
GIVEN WHAT HE SAID...
...EVEN PRINCE LEONHARD SHOULD PUT A BIT OF EFFORT INTO HIS STUDIES.
KACHAK
NOW, WHAT SHALL I DO IF HE'S ALREADY RUN OFF?
FORGIVE MY INTRUSION, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YES-TER-DAY
NOOO! I'LL NEVER STUDY!
OUTTA MY WAY!
.....

I'M READY FOR MY LESSONS...
...HEINE.
I'M A BIT SURPRISED TO SEE THAT YOUR HIGHNESS DID NOT RUN FROM LESSONS.
EXCUSE ME.
YOUR HAT...
WH-
WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION?
POP
ポン

I-IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO STUDY OR ANY-THING!
AND I'M STILL NOT ACCEPTING YOU AS MY TUTOR EITHER!
B-
BUT I SAID I WOULD TRY. SO I WILL.
...FOR NOW.
PRINCE LEONHARD...
THEN LET'S THROW OURSELVES INTO YOUR STUDIES, SHALL WE?
WE'LL BEGIN WITH BASIC SUMS.
BAM
O-OKAY!
THREE MIN-UTES LATER
SNOOOOZE
ふにゃ
zz

.....
GOOD NIGHT.
OH, IT'S JUST A DEER...
WHOM ARE YOU CALLING A DEER?
PLEASE DO NOT FALL ASLEEP
HWHA ...?
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
PRINCE LEONHARD.
HRMPH.
IT WOULD BEHOOVE YOU TO CON-CENTRATE.
BOLT
D-DRAT! I DOZED OFF...
THERE IS NO SUCH ILLNESS.
I HAVE AN ILLNESS THAT MAKES MY EYELIDS HEAVY WHENEVER I LOOK AT CALCULA-TIONS...
DOOZE
MMMH.
I-IT'S NOT LIKE I MEANT TO FALL ASLEEP.
I WAS UP EXCEP-TIONALLY EARLY THIS MORNING...
WH-WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS, ERM....
?

IF I MAY GUESS...DID YOU NOT GET SUFFICIENT REST?
JOLT
DID YOU NOT GO STRAIGHT TO BED AFTER WE WERE FOUND LAST NIGHT, DESPITE YOUR EXHAUSTION?
OR IS IT SOMETHING ELSE?
GH...
GUH...
SILENCE, YOU... I WON'T TELL YOU...
NEVER...!
DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO SWORE ME TO SECRECY!
I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING, ALL RIGHT!?
YOU'RE CLEARLY HIDING SOME-THING.
FWAP

GLOW
はぁっ
SO SIMPLE...
TRULY!?
NO, NO, NO! I WON'T TELL!
YES, YES, I KNOW. I WON'T PRESS THE ISSUE...
PURSUING THE MATTER WILL ONLY INTERRUPT HIS LESSONS, SO I'LL LEAVE IT BE...
...SWORE ME TO SECRECY!
DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO...
.....
I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER.
GOOD WORK.
THAT CONCLUDES YOUR LESSONS FOR TODAY, PRINCE LEONHARD.
F...FI-NALLY...
SLUMP
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
SHUT

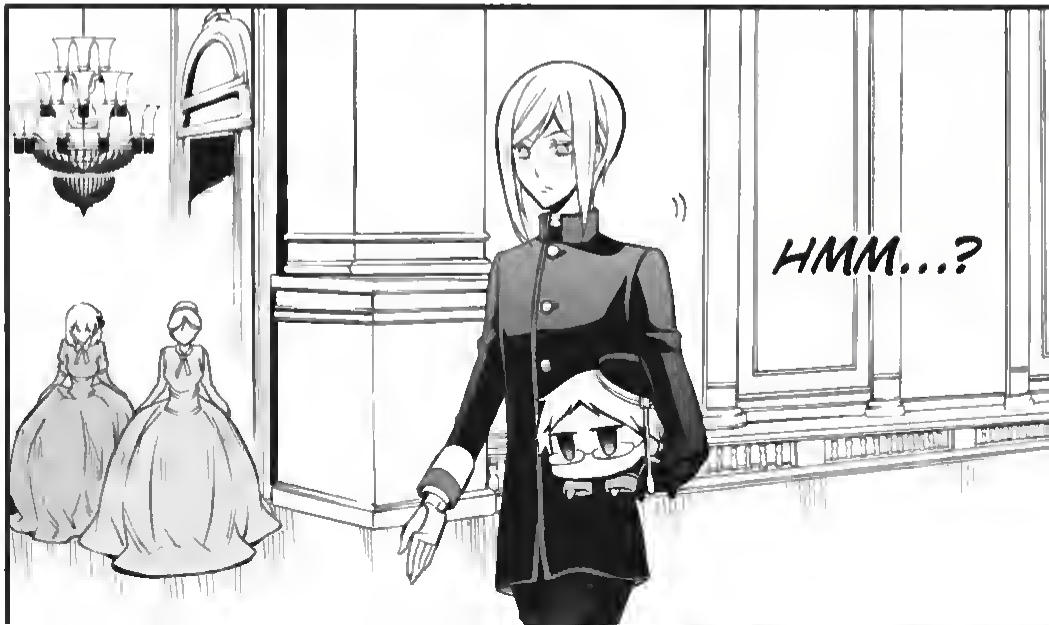
I'LL QUESTION THE OTHER THREE...
...DURING THEIR LESSONS.
LET US BEGIN THE LESSON, MASTER!
I-I SAID NOTHING AT ALL TO LEONHARD!
BRUNO'S ROOM
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOUR BOOK IS UPSIDE-DOWN.
...IF YOU MAKE TODAY'S LESSON ONE ABOUT WAYS TO NURTURE LOVE WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX.
BRUNIE AND LEONIE'S LITTLE SECRET? SURE, I'LL TELL YOU...
LICHT'S ROOM
NO.
PRINCE ...?
AHEM... PRINCE KAI.
PRINCE.
KAI'S ROOM
ふに
PET

THERE.
LESSONS ARE DONE FOR THE DAY, AND I'VE WRITTEN MY REPORT TO THE KING.
KAW!
KAW!
POMF
ぽん
WHILE I COULDN'T TELL IF PRINCE KAI IS INVOLVED...
PET
...IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT THE PRINCES ARE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME.
THE PRINCES INTEND TO PLAY A PRANK ON ME, DO THEY?
TSK!
THE ROYAL TUTOR LETS OUT A SIGH AT HOW EASILY HE WAS ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THIS SCHEME.

GURGLE
KNOCK KNOCK
I DO BELIEVE IT IS TO BE DELIVERED TO MY ROOM.
HMM. WHERE IS MY DINNER?
THEY MAY BE PRINCES, BUT THEY ARE STILL CHILDREN, AND BOYS WILL BE BOYS.
HMM. I'LL MAKE A NOTE OF THIS.
EE?!
...OR PUTTING SOME-THING DOWN THE BACK OF MY COLLAR
MAKING SOME-THING FALL ON ME...
OW!
DINNER, DINNER...
AHA. SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
FIDGET FIDGET
KACHAK
U-UM, HEINE...
W-WOULD YOU...JOIN ME FOR A STROLL...?
DON'T CLOSE THE DOOR IN MY FACE, YOU HEARTLESS TEACHER!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ONLY ME"!?
PULLLL
OH, IT'S ONLY YOU, PRINCE LEON-HARD?

GOOD HEAVENS. PRINCE LEONHARD ASKING ME TO ACCOMPANY HIM?
A SUSPICIOUS ACT FROM THE VERY START.
LOOK, I'M GOING OUT OF MY WAY TO INVITE YOU ON A WALK.
YOU SHOULD BE HONORED!
COME ALONG, THEN!
AS YOU WISH.

AS AN ADULT, PERHAPS I SHOULD HUMOR HIM BY PURPOSEFULLY FALLING FOR HIS TRAP...
HE'S LEADING ME TO A TRAP HOLE OR SOME SIMILAR PRANK, ISN'T HE?


HMM...?

LOOK, JUST WAIT HERE A MOMENT.
NOOO! WE STILL NEED A LITTLE TIME...
WHISPER
LICHT! CAN I OPEN THE DOOR YET?
...PRINCE? THIS IS NOT SO MUCH A STROLL ...
...AS IT IS YOU CLEARLY MOVING ME SOME-WHERE.
...GH!
FLAIL
FLAIL
THEY'RE SQUABBLING OVER SOME-THING.
HOW TEDIOUS...
AHHH, BRUNIE! KAINIE! HURRY, HURRY!
BUT THOSE TWO ARE...
BAM
WHAT !!?
I ALREADY HAVE HIM HERE!
KREEEAK
I HIGHLY DOUBT WHAT-EVER YOU'VE CONCOCTED CAN SURPRISE ME, IN ANY CASE...
YOUR HIGHNESS? YOU NEEDN'T STRAIN YOURSELF HIDING THIS SURPRISE OF YOURS.

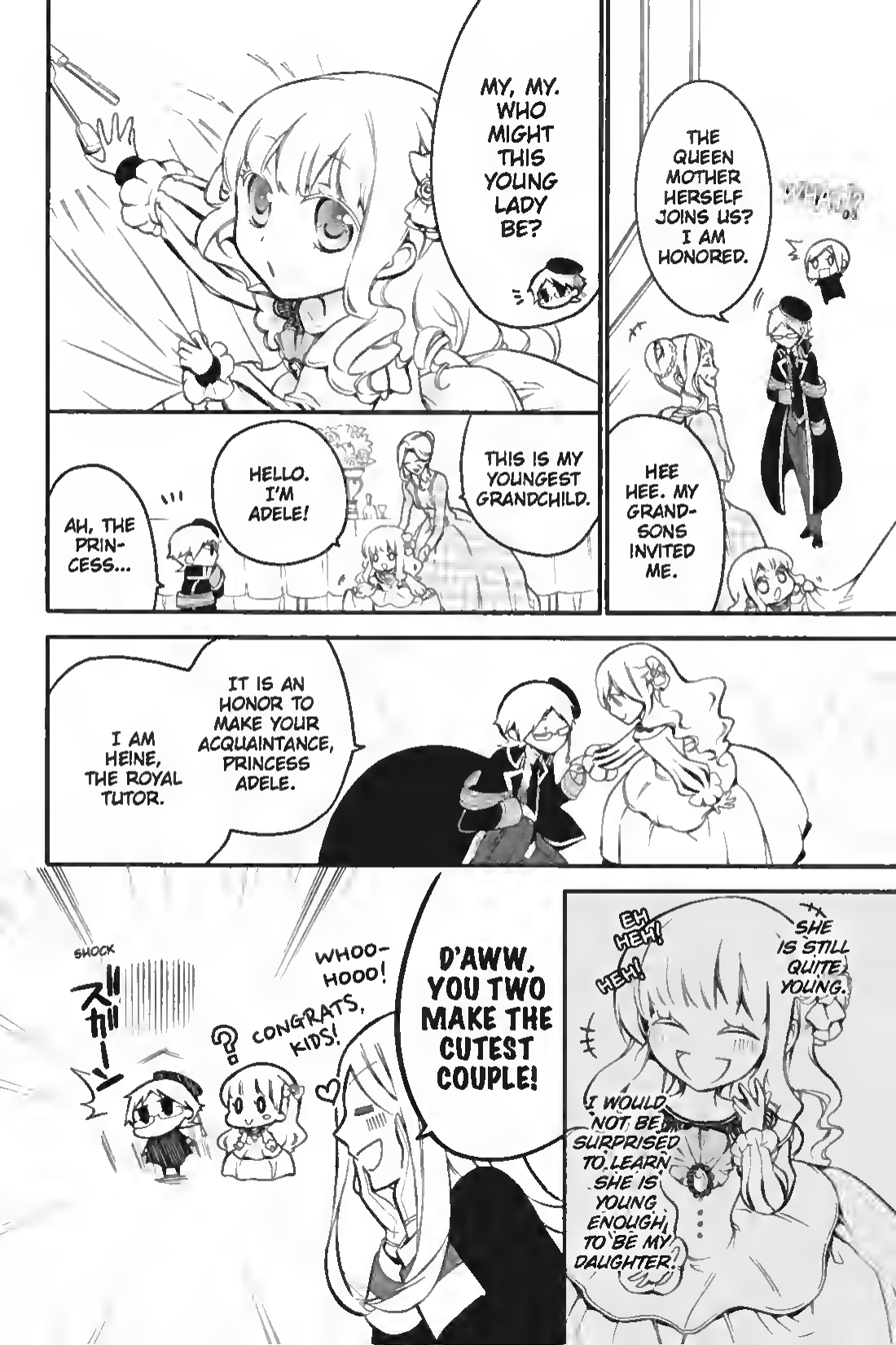
……!

WELCOME ...
...TO WEISBURG PALACE!

.....
THIS IS...
HMPH.
YOUR WELCOMING PARTY.
IT WAS MY IDEA. IT'S BUT A MODEST PARTY, BUT WE ALL HAD A HAND IN PREPARING IT.
KAI GATHERED THE FLOWERS AND FRUIT FOR THE CENTER-PIECES.
...WENT TO THE GARDENS ... ... AFTER LESSONS ...
LICHT ARRANGED THE TABLE.
I WAS CONSULTING WITH A PROFESSIONAL BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG.
A LADY I KNOW WHO WORKS AT A FAMOUS RESTAU-RANT.
SWOON SWOON
YOU SHOULD ARRANGE IT LIKE THIS..

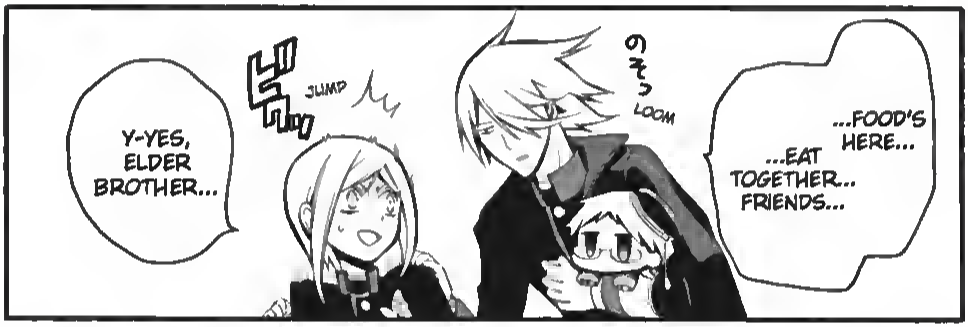
AND LEONHARD WENT HUNTING TO PROVIDE THE MEAT.
GLANCE
ちら
.....
BUT I WAS CONVINCED IT WAS SOME KIND OF MISCHIEF.
CONSIDERING IT WAS A SURPRISE, YOU WERE HALF-RIGHT!
HOW COULD YOU THINK SUCH A THING, MASTER!?
BOLT
...WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT NOT BEING SURPRISED, HMM?
MY...
I REALIZED YOUR HIGHNESSES WERE HIDING SOMETHING.
YOU'VE BEEN STRUCK DUMB!
IF EVER YOU ARE THREATENED BY SUCH WICKEDNESS, MASTER, I WILL STOP IT AT ANY COST!
I WOULD GIVE MY VERY LIFE FOR YOURS ...!
PLEASE DON'T.
YOU ARE A PRINCE.
CLENCH

I WANTED TO HELP DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO, THAT'S ALL.
I WOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED RIDING OUT TO THE MOUNTAINS FIRST THING IN THE MORNING OTHERWISE.
I-IT'S NOT LIKE I DID IT FOR YOU...!
ALTHOUGH, I STILL CANNOT APPROVE OF SLEEPING DURING LESSONS.
PRINCE LEONHARD...
...YOU SACRIFICED SLEEP FOR MY SAKE?
MUSTERRR...
SNEER
I DID ENJOY PULLING ONE OVER ON A TEACHER...
BUT... HEH...
WHAT SAY YOU!? HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE FOOLED BY YOUR OWN STUDENT!?
I WAS NOT. YOU WERE THE MOST OBVIOUSLY SUSPICIOUS.
MY CLEVER MISDIRECTION LEFT YOU COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF OUR SURPRISE!
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA!


MY, MY. WHO MIGHT THIS YOUNG LADY BE?
THE QUEEN MOTHER HERSELF JOINS US? I AM HONORED.
THIS IS MY YOUNGEST GRANDCHILD.
HELLO. I'M ADELE!
AH, THE PRIN-CESS...
HEE HEE. MY GRAND-SONS INVITED ME.
I AM HEINE, THE ROYAL TUTOR.
IT IS AN HONOR TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, PRINCESS ADELE.
SHOCK
スカーン
CONGRATS, KIDS!
WHOO-HOOO!
D'AWW, YOU TWO MAKE THE CUTEST COUPLE!
EH HEH! HEH!
SHE IS STILL QUITE YOUNG.
I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN SHE IS YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE MY DAUGHTER.

ADELE IS BUT THREE YEARS OF AGE.
A TASTE-LESS JOKE.
AH-HA-HA! IT WAS JUST A JOKE!
I AM A GROWN ADULT.
POUT
WATCH YOUR TONGUE, LICHT!
TO PROPOSE THAT A GIRL SO INEXPERI-ENCED IS FIT TO BE MASTER'S WIFE...IS POSITIVELY ABSURD...!!
GRIT
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE AN IN-LAW?
THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS YOU?
HEINE, YOU INSOLENT LITTLE IMP...! HOW DARE YOU HAVE DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO'S ATTENTION...!
SUCH BOTHER-SOME BROTHERS.

RATTLE
RATTLE
LISTEN, ADELE, THAT TEACHER MAY BE SMALL, BUT HE'S A DEVIL!
STAY FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HIM!
DEH-VULL?
MUST YOU INSULT ME?
WHAT A DREAD-FUL THING TO SAY!


...FOOD'S HERE...
...EAT TOGETHER... FRIENDS...
LOOM
JUMP
Y-YES, ELDER BROTHER...

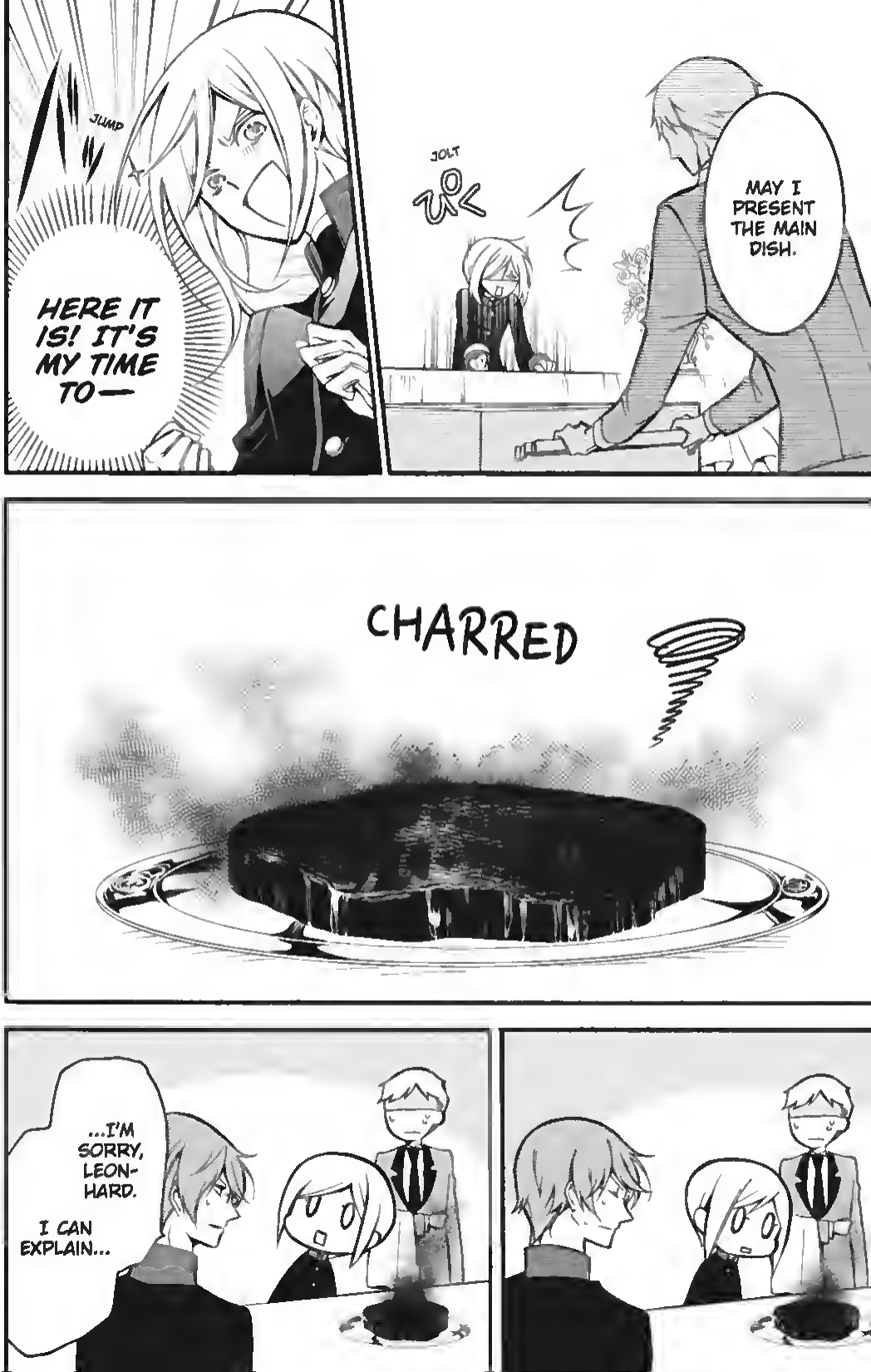
EVERYONE ELSE IS SEATED ACCORDING TO THEIR RANK!
FWIP
WHOA, BRUNIE'S PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS.
DOES IT MATTER WHERE WE SIT?
YOU THOUGHT OF EVERY-THING! THAT'S MY DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO...!

FWIP
WHERE'S... TEACHER'S SEAT...?
WANDER
WANDER
MASTER WILL SIT AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE, OF COURSE!

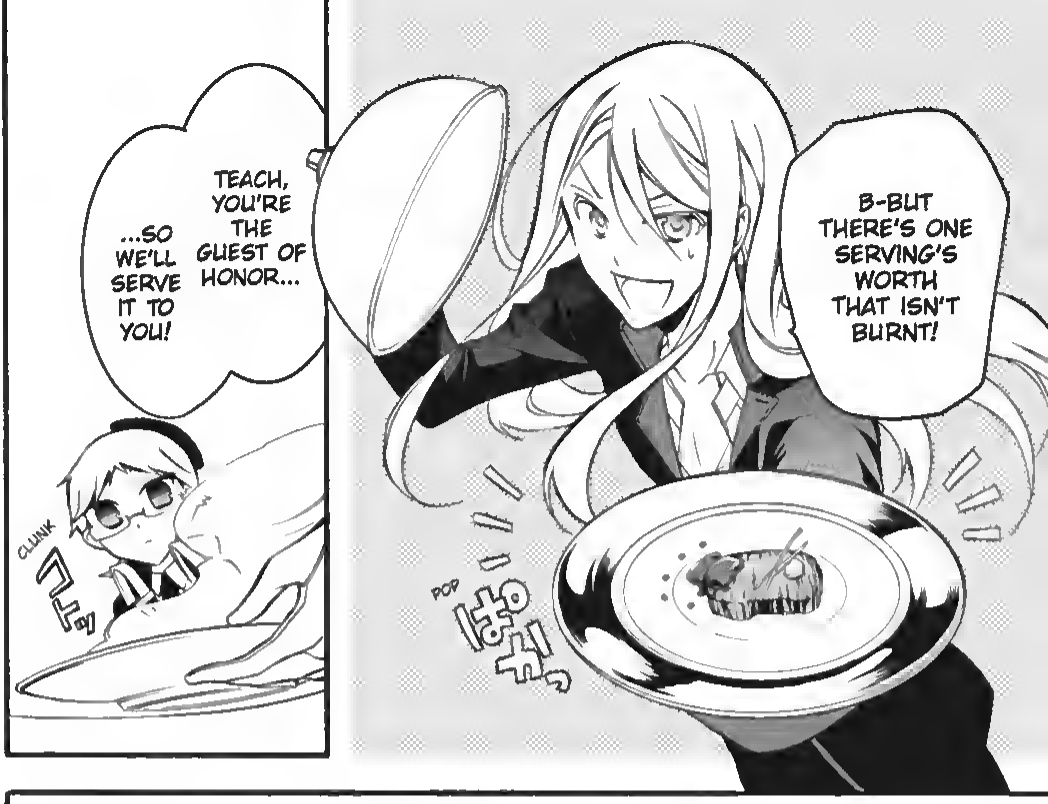
KLATTER
RATTLE
PERFECTION
きっちり
...WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME HERR WITTGENSTEIN WITH OUR FINEST DISHES.
WE, THE STAFF OF THE ROYAL KITCHEN...
GLEAM
OOH!

WOULD YOU PREFER WINE OR BEER?
NEITHER, THANK YOU. MAY I HAVE WATER, THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE?
CLINK
AHEM.
WELL, AS I WAS THE ONE TO PLAN THIS PARTY...
...I SHALL LEAD US OFF WITH A TOAST.
PROST!

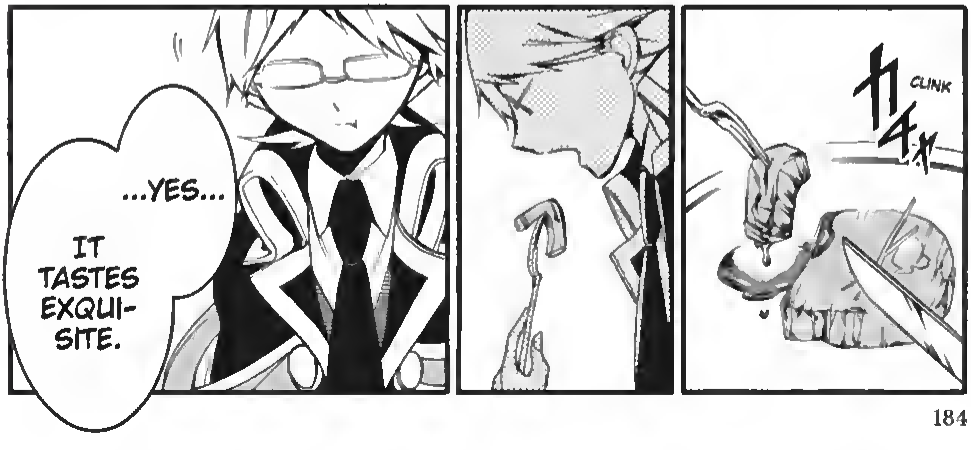
NOW, ENJOY YOUR DINNER.
PROST!
CLINK
PROST!
CLINK
MMMM! GOOD STUFF!
FIDGET
FIDGET
N-NO! I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW THE VENISON FROM THE DEER I SHOT TURNED OUT...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, PRINCE LEONHARD?
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
IT LOOKS DIVINE! YOU'RE AMAZING, LEONIE!
WOW! INCREDIBLE!
I WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS.
HE CLEARLY WANTS TO BE PRAISED.
?
SQUIRM
SQUIRM


JUMP
HERE IT IS! IT'S MY TIME TO—
JOLT
MAY I PRESENT THE MAIN DISH.
CHARRED
...I'M SORRY, LEONHARD.
I CAN EXPLAIN...

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE TO PRESENT A DISH THAT WE BROTHERS HAD CREATED ENTIRELY BY OURSELVES TO MASTER...
...WE WANTED TO COOK THE MEAT OUR-SELVES AS WELL.
AFTER YOU FELLED THAT DEER YOURSELF...
WHAAAT? WAY TO PASS THE BLAME, JERK!
NO! I ASKED YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON IT THEN!
BRUNIE GOT DIS-TRACTED.
PSST!
BUT YOU SEE THE RESULT ...
WE COOKED IT WHEN YOU WENT TO SUMMON MASTER...
FREEZE
LEON-HARD...
PANIC
PANIC
PANIC
I-I'M SINCERELY SORRY...
S-SORRY! I'M REAL SORRY, LEONIE!
BLOOOSH


B-BUT THERE'S ONE SERVING'S WORTH THAT ISN'T BURNT!
POP
TEACH, YOU'RE THE GUEST OF HONOR...
...SO WE'LL SERVE IT TO YOU!
CLINK

NH... NGH...
.....


...YES... IT TASTES EXQUI-SITE.
CLINK

THANK YOU, PRINCE LEONHARD.

TH-THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT! WE WANTED YOU TO EAT IT!
SIR, IF I MAY IMPOSE UPON YOU...
...WOULD YOU PLEASE CUT THIS STEAK INTO ENOUGH PORTIONS THAT EVERY-ONE MAY PARTAKE?
THE DISH WAS GIVEN TO ME.
THERE-FORE, I AM FREE TO SHARE IT WITH WHOM-EVER I PLEASE.
AM I MISTAKEN?
A SOUND ARGU-MENT.
.....
...!

MINI-STEAK!!
WAAH! IT'S CUTE!
OH! EVEN THESE SMALL PIECES ARE FULL OF FLAVOR. DELICIOUS!
BITE-SIZED.
YOU'RE TOO QUICK TO PRAISE YOUR-SELF!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO LEONHARD FOR BRINGING IN THE DEER, YOU MEAN!
OW!
HEH! PRETTY GOOD! ♪
NOD NOD
ALL THANKS TO MY EXQUISITE SEASONING!!
WH-WHAT!?
YOU SEE? NO HARD WORK GOES UNREWARDED.
ISN'T THAT NICE, PRINCE LEONHARD? EVERYONE WAS PLEASED WITH IT.

NH...!
DON'T FORGET— I AM NOT HAPPY TO HAVE A TEACHER HERE!!
I STILL WANT TO BE RID OF YOU, UNDER-STAND!?
LEONIE'S SO SHYYY!
YES, YES, I KNOW.
I COULD NOT BE MORE SERI-OUS!!

I FELT SO RESTLESS IN THIS ROOM LAST NIGHT, BUT THAT FEELING HAS SUBSIDED SOMEWHAT...
I BELIEVE I WILL SLEEP WELL TONIGHT.
I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE THE PRINCES GAVE ME A SIGN THAT IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO BE HERE.
A WELCOME PARTY FOR ME?
I COULDN'T BE MORE PLEASED.

—BUT THE TRUTH IS...
...I DON'T BELONG HERE...

THE ROYAL TUTOR

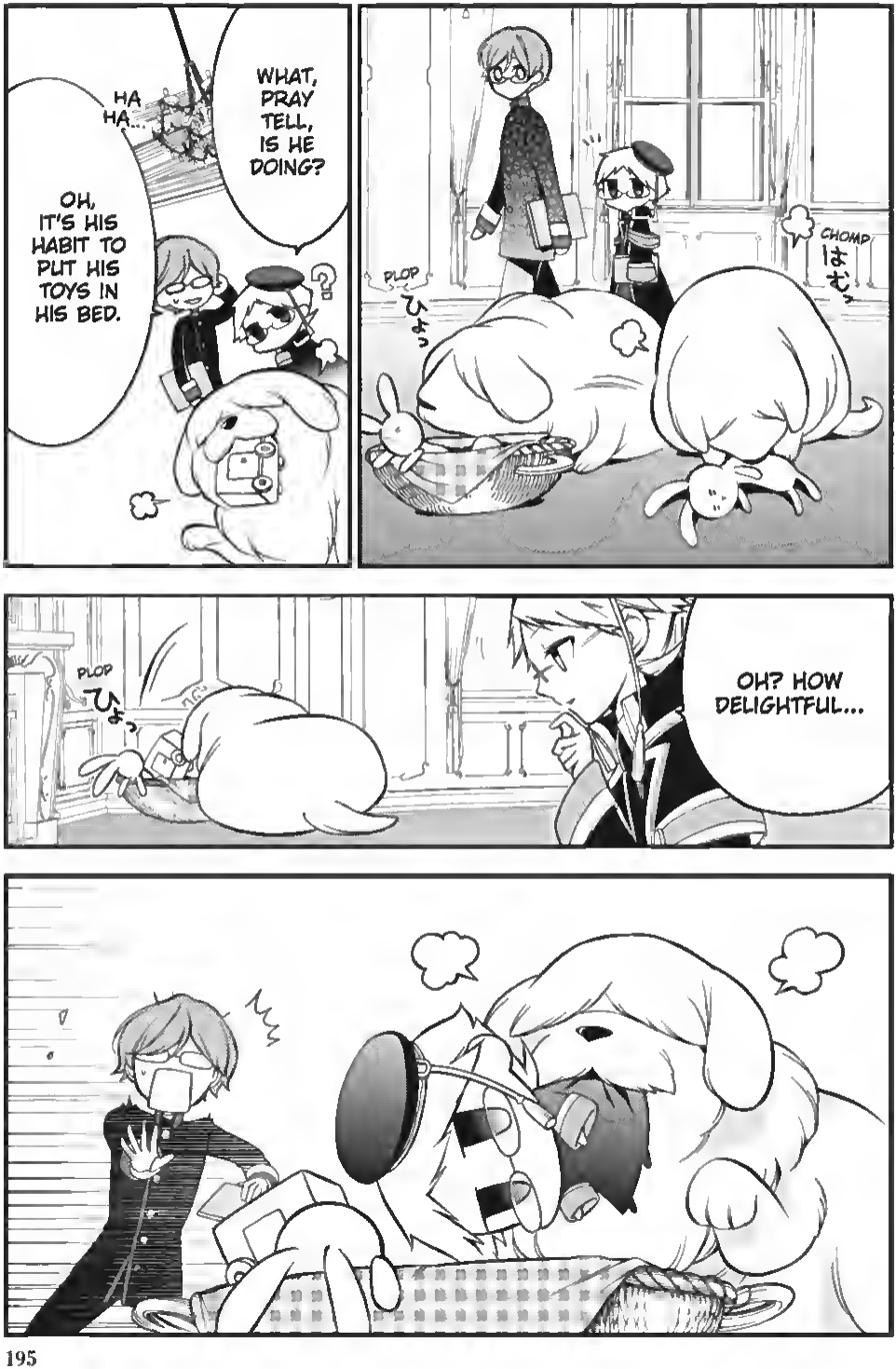
I'M VERY NERVOUS ABOUT THIS FIRST VOLUME. I DO HOPE YOU ENJOY IT. THE PLAN IS TO DIG DEEPER INTO EACH OF THE INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERS FROM HERE ON... SEE YOU IN VOLUME 2!

SPECIAL THANKS

YOSHI KOUJU-SAN
SHOU YUDUKI-SAN
SHIROJI-SAN

Introducing the father of the princes, his majesty the king.
Many challenges await the princes in the second volume...
ON SALE NOW!

ONE DAY, I'M GOING TO BE AMAZING TOO, JUST LIKE HIM!
YEAH!
DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO IS A PERFECT STUDENT, AND HE'S RESPECTED AND, AND...OHH, HE'S JUST AMAZING!
MAS-TERRR!!
I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT SOAP!
MAS-TER!
MAS-TER!
AHHH! DUST! UNACCEPT-ABLE!
PRINCE LEONHARD... FOLLOWING IN PRINCE BRUNO'S FOOTSTEPS...
!?
TOO TIRESOME!
NO, THANK YOU.


WHAT, PRAY TELL, IS HE DOING?
HA HA...
OH, IT'S HIS HABIT TO PUT HIS TOYS IN HIS BED.
CHOMP
はむっ
PLOP
ひょっ
PLOP
ひょっ
OH? HOW DELIGHTFUL...

Translation Notes

Page 3
***Freut mich*:** German for "nice to meet you."

Page 10
Queen mother: The mother of the reigning king.

Page 48
***Torte*:** A kind of rich, multilayered cake. Prince Leonhard is specifically imagining *Sacher torte*, a Viennese specialty consisting of chocolate cake with layers separated by apricot jam.

Page 55
***Melange*:** German for "blend." A specialty coffee drink similar to a cappuccino, and a popular beverage in Vienna.

Page 76
***Ringstrasse*:** German for "ring road," the real-world Ringstrasse is a boulevard circling the city center of Vienna, Austria. The Ringstrasse project began as a replacement for the inner city walls, which were demolished by decree of Emperor Franz Joseph I in 1857, and the road's construction coincided with a liberal social shift away from class elitism.

Page 77
Public operettas: In modern times, we might consider the opera to be high culture, but it was popular entertainment for all social classes in 1890s Austria-Hungary, the basis for *The Royal Tutor*'s Kingdom of Granzreich.

Page 131
Grading in Japan: In Japan where the manga was penned, incorrect answers are typically marked with checkmarks, and correct answers are marked with circles.

The Royal Tutor ❶

Higasa Akai

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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